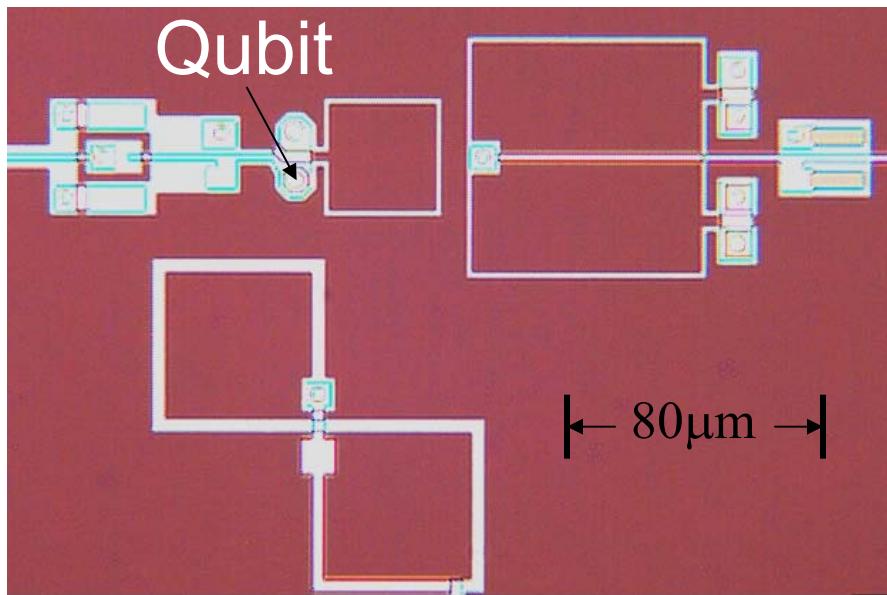


# Coherence in Josephson-Junction Qubits

**John Martinis – NIST Boulder**

Dustin Hite, Ray Simmonds, Robert McDermott, Ken Cooper,  
Matthias Steffen, Dave Pappas, Seongshik Oh, Sae Woo Nam



- “Atom” based on nonlinear microwave resonator
- Scalable system using IC fabrication

**ARDA**



**NIST**

National Institute of Standards and Technology • Technology Administration • U.S. Department of Commerce



# Outline & Key Concepts

## Introduction

- Superconductors : Intrinsically low dissipation
- Josephson Junctions : Strong non-linear element

## Circuits work

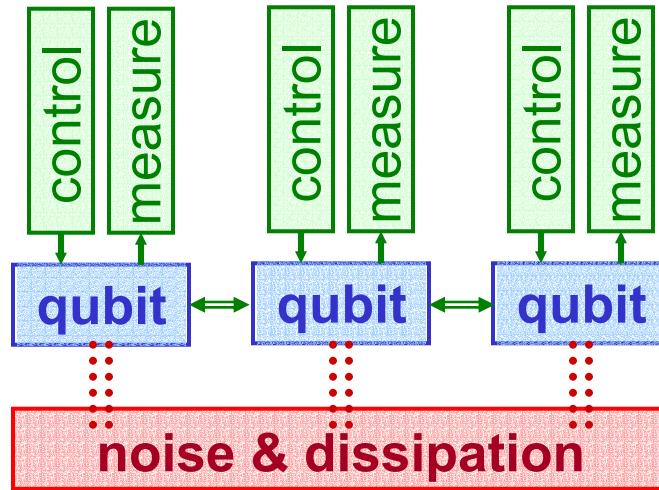
- 1-qubit logic : controlled with bias current
- 2-qubit gates : use linear coupling
- Impedance transformers : decouple qubit from leads
- Low dissipation qubit circuit, Rabi oscillations

## Coherence

- New mechanism for decoherence – junction resonances
- Microscopic model (connects: I-V, 1/f noise, decoherence)
- Improve junction fabrication for better coherence
- *Preliminary* tests of coupled-qubits, time-domain

Circuits work well enough that we can study & improve coherence!

# Challenge: Coupling vs. Decoherence



Experimental challenge:  
Couple qubits to each other,  
control, & measure,  
not noise and dissipation

# Experimental Systems

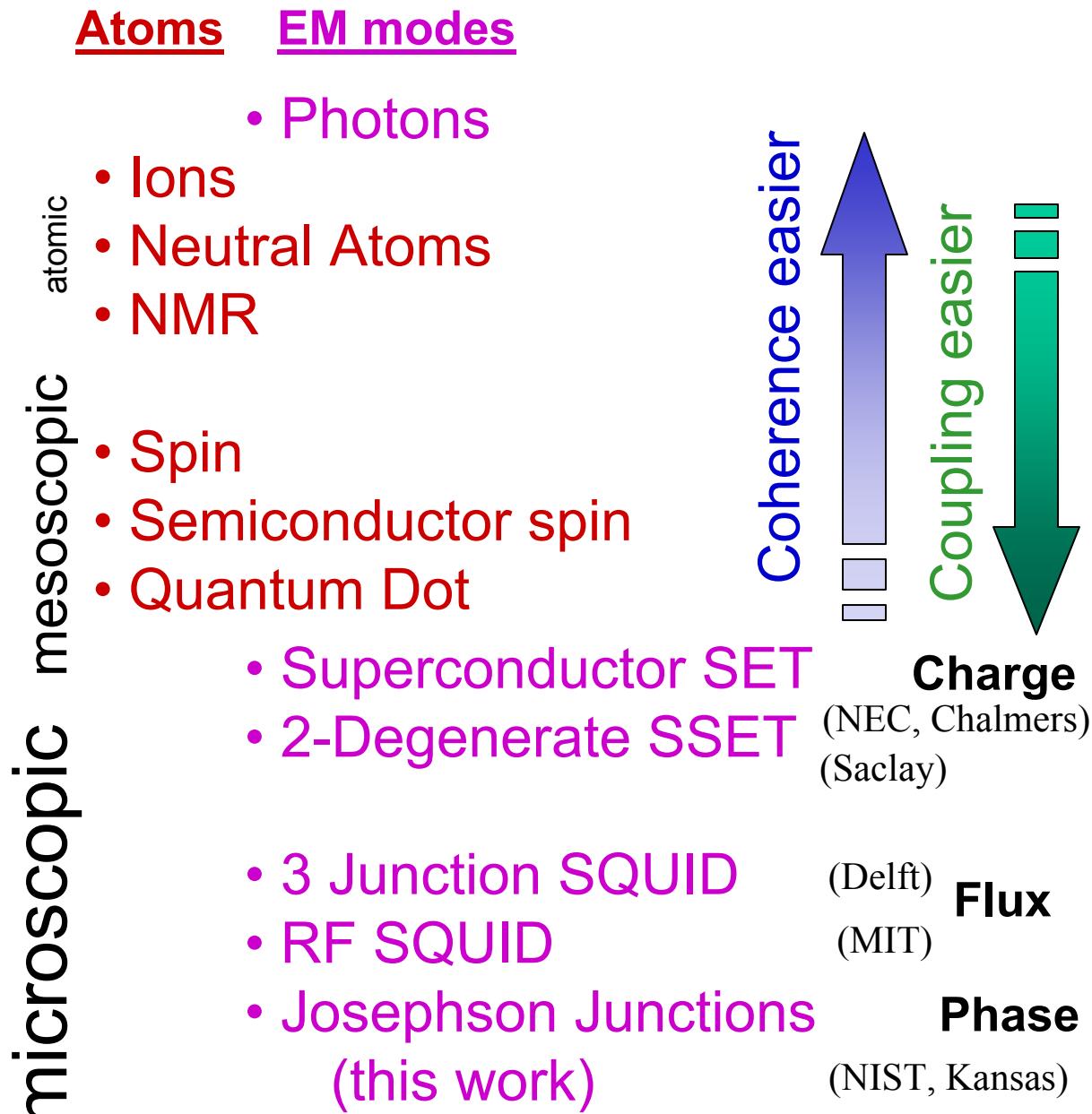
## Atoms

Feynmann (1985):  
“it seems that the laws of physics present no barrier to reducing the size of computers until bits are the size of atoms, and quantum behavior holds sway.”

- atomic
  - Ions
  - Neutral Atoms
  - NMR
  
- mesoscopic
  - Spin
  - Semiconductor spin
  - Quantum Dot

# Experimental Systems

Feynmann (1985):  
“it seems that the laws of physics present no barrier to reducing the size of computers until bits are the size of atoms, and quantum behavior holds sway.”



# Quantum Integrated Circuits

- No Dissipation: Superconductivity

Phase degree of freedom:  $\phi$

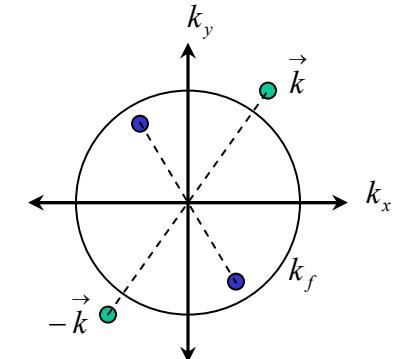
Cooper pairs – states of zero momentum

Only remaining degree of freedom is  $\phi$

Supercurrent:  $j_s \propto \nabla \phi$

Energy gap of excitations:  $2\Delta \approx 3.5 kT_c$

No dissipation for  $hf < 2\Delta$  (80 GHz for Al)



$$\Psi = \prod_k (u_k + v_k e^{i\phi} c_k^+ c_{-k}^+) |0\rangle$$

- Suppression of Thermal Noise:  $kT \ll hf$

Dilution refrigeration:  $20 \text{ mK} \ll 0.5 \text{ K}$  (10GHz)

- Non-linearity: Josephson effect

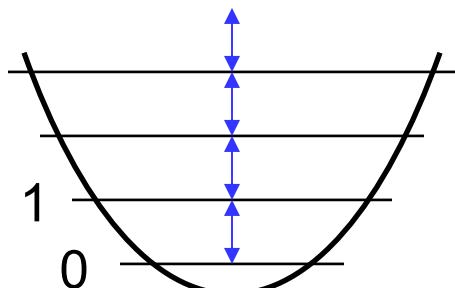
$$I \propto \langle \Psi | T c_{kL} c_{-kL} c_{kR}^+ c_{-kR}^+ | \Psi \rangle - c.c.$$

$$\propto e^{i\phi_L} e^{-i\phi_R} - c.c.$$

$$= I_0 \sin(\phi_L - \phi_R)$$

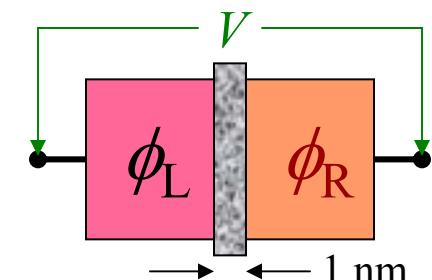
$$I = I_0 \sin(\Phi 2\pi/\Phi_0)$$

**Non-linear Inductor**



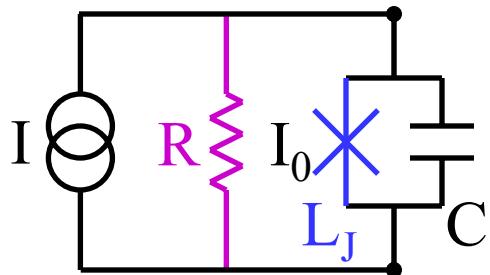
$$\phi_L - \phi_R = (2e/\hbar) \int V dt$$

$$= (2\pi/\Phi_0) \Phi$$



Large  $\Delta$  gives no dissipation from junction imperfections

# Qubit: Nonlinear LC resonator



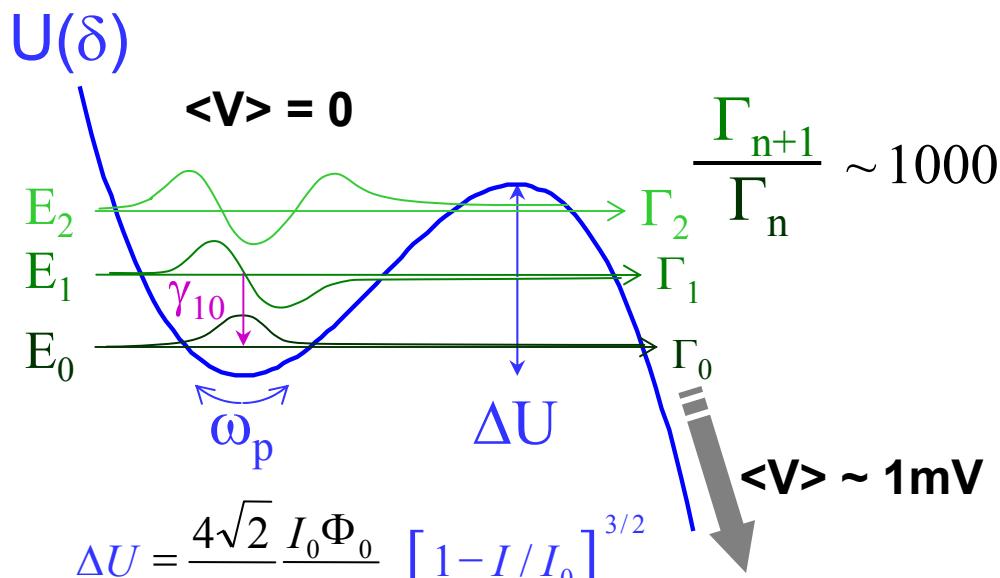
$$I = I_0 \sin \delta$$

$$V = \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \dot{\delta}$$

$$\dot{I}_j = I_0 \cos \delta \quad \dot{\delta} \\ \equiv (1/L_J)V$$

$$L_J = \Phi_0 / 2\pi I_0 \cos \delta$$

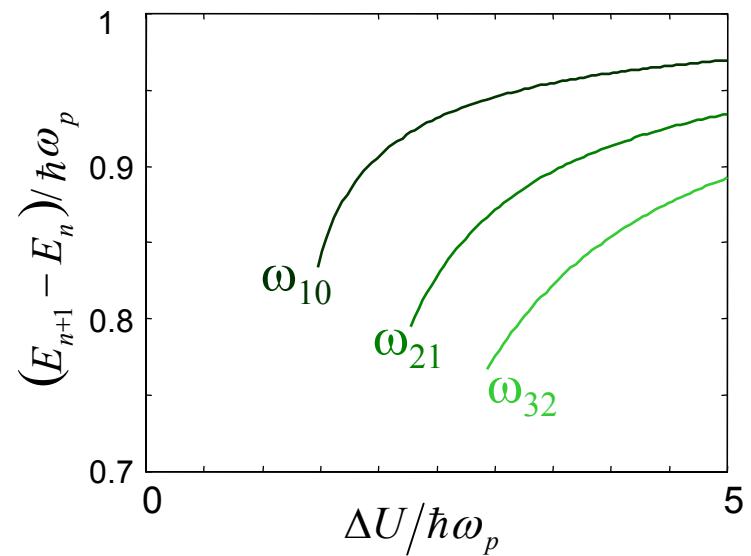
**nonlinear inductor**



$$\Delta U = \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{3} \frac{I_0 \Phi_0}{2\pi} \left[ 1 - I/I_0 \right]^{3/2}$$

$$\omega_p = \left( \frac{2\sqrt{2}\pi}{\Phi_0} \frac{I_0}{C} \right)^{1/2} \left[ 1 - I/I_0 \right]^{1/4}$$

$\gamma_{10} \approx 1/RC$       Lifetime of state  $|1\rangle$



# Josephson-Junction Qubit

- State Preparation

Wait  $t > 1/\gamma_{10}$  for decay to  $|0\rangle$

- Qubit logic with bias control

$$I = I_{dc} + \delta I_{dc}(t) + I_{\mu wc}(t) \cos \omega_{10} t + I_{\mu ws}(t) \sin \omega_{10} t$$

$$\begin{aligned} H_{(2)} = & \sigma_x \bullet I_{\mu wc} \bullet (\hbar / 2\omega_{10} C)^{1/2} / 2 \\ & + \sigma_y \bullet I_{\mu ws} \bullet (\hbar / 2\omega_{10} C)^{1/2} / 2 \\ & + \sigma_z \bullet \delta I_{dc}(t) \bullet (\partial E_{10} / \partial I_{dc}) / 2 \end{aligned}$$

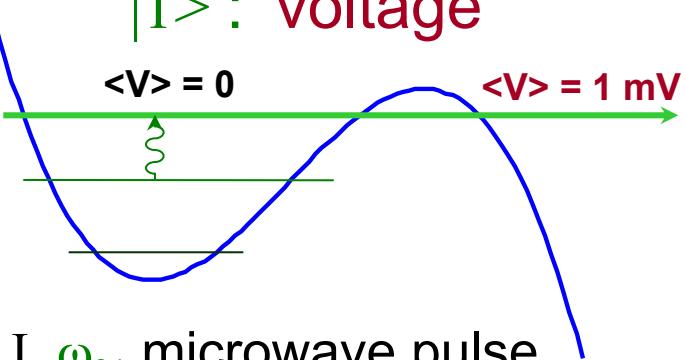
- State Measurement (Junction acts as “photomultiplier”)

$|0\rangle$  : zero voltage

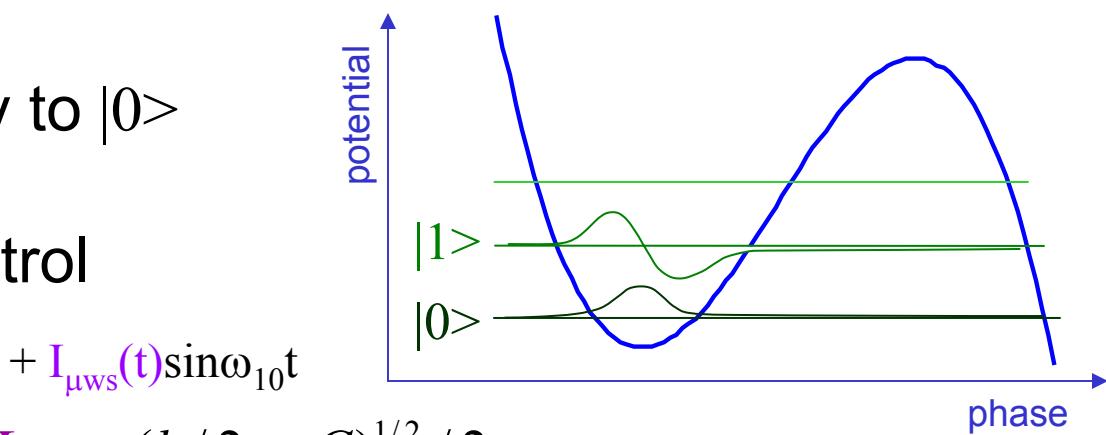
$|1\rangle$  : voltage

$$\langle V \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle V \rangle = 1 \text{ mV}$$



I.  $\omega_{21}$  microwave pulse  
 $\tau_{\text{meas}} \sim 100 \text{ ns}$ , Fidelity  $\sim 90\%$



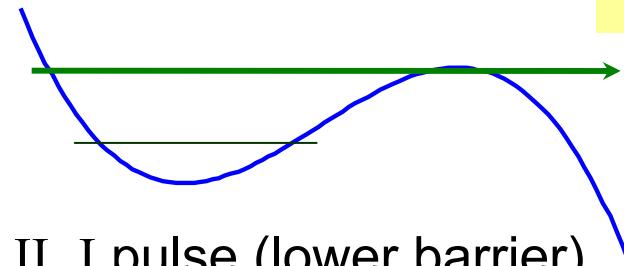
$$H_{(2)} = \sigma_x \bullet I_{\mu wc} \bullet (\hbar / 2\omega_{10} C)^{1/2} / 2$$

$$+ \sigma_y \bullet I_{\mu ws} \bullet (\hbar / 2\omega_{10} C)^{1/2} / 2$$

$$+ \sigma_z \bullet \delta I_{dc}(t) \bullet (\partial E_{10} / \partial I_{dc}) / 2$$

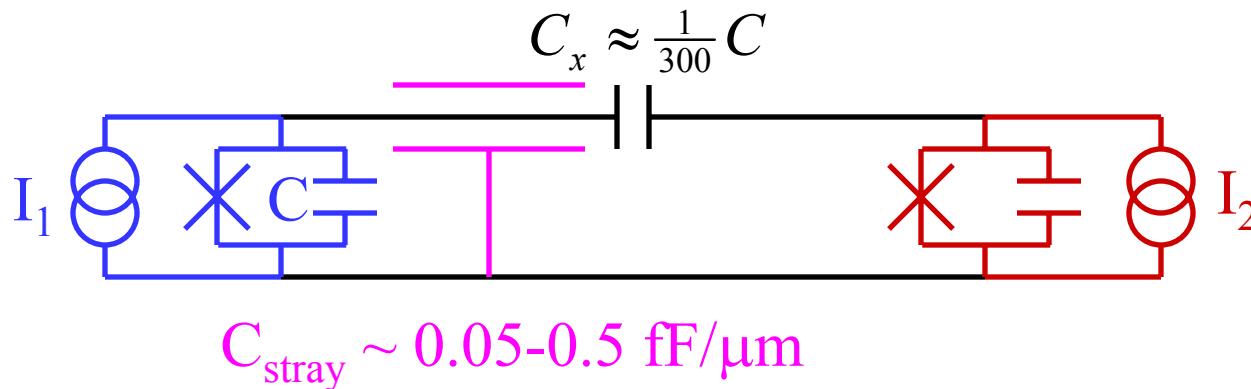
With  $\Gamma_i / \Gamma_{i-1} \sim 500$

Expect fidelity  
 $> 95\%-99\% !!$



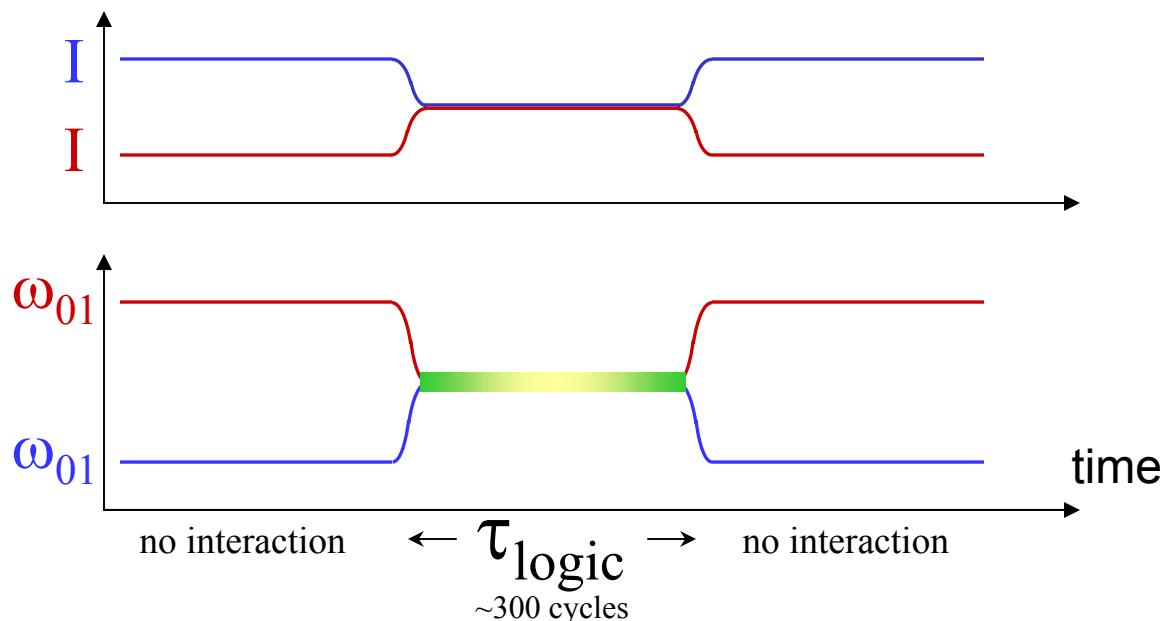
II. I pulse (lower barrier)  
 $\tau_{\text{meas}} \sim 5 \text{ ns}$ , Fidelity  $\sim 70\%$

# Qubit Logic with Capacitive Coupling



$$H_{\text{int}} \propto C_x q_1 q_2$$
$$\propto \sigma_{y1} \sigma_{y2}$$

Turn-off interaction  
with single qubit  
operations (eg. NMR)



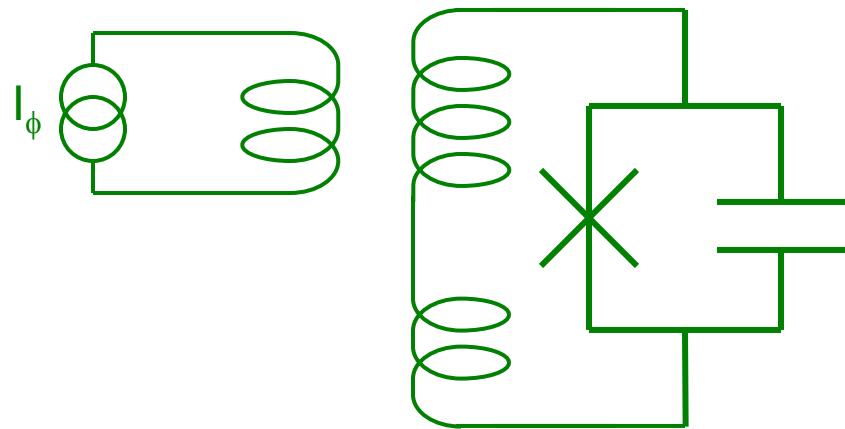
Modulate interaction by  
de-tuning resonance  
frequencies

Theory (Maryland):  
CNOT & Phase gates

Experiment (Maryland)  
Level splittings

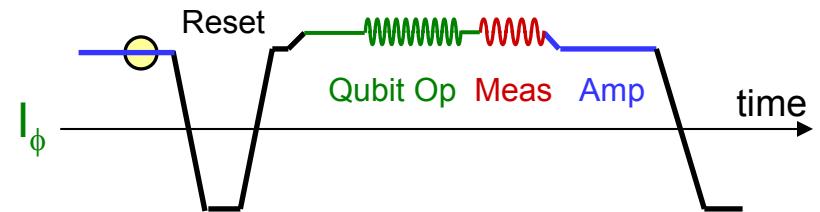
Large junctions –  $C_{\text{stray}}$  unimportant  
Coupling to more qubits, lower crosstalk

# Qubit operation → Measurement → Readout

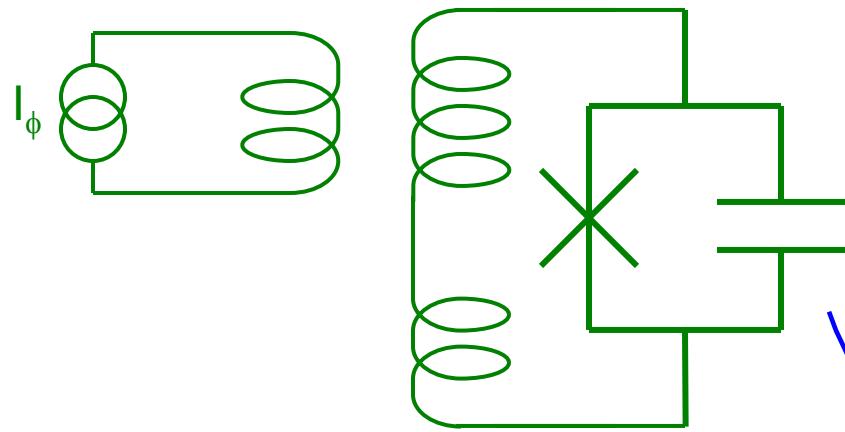


Qubit  
Cycle

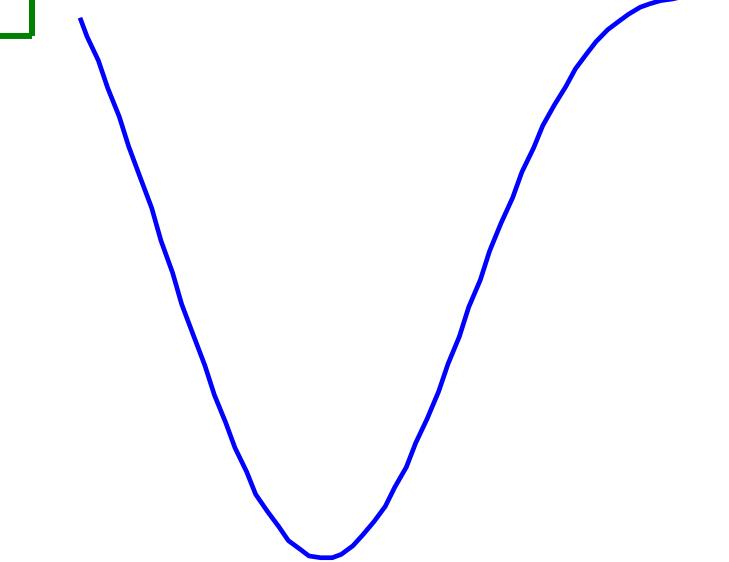
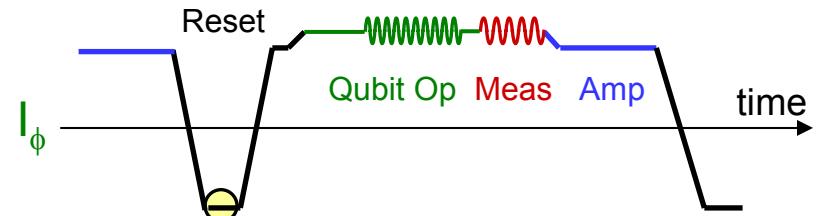
$U(\delta)$



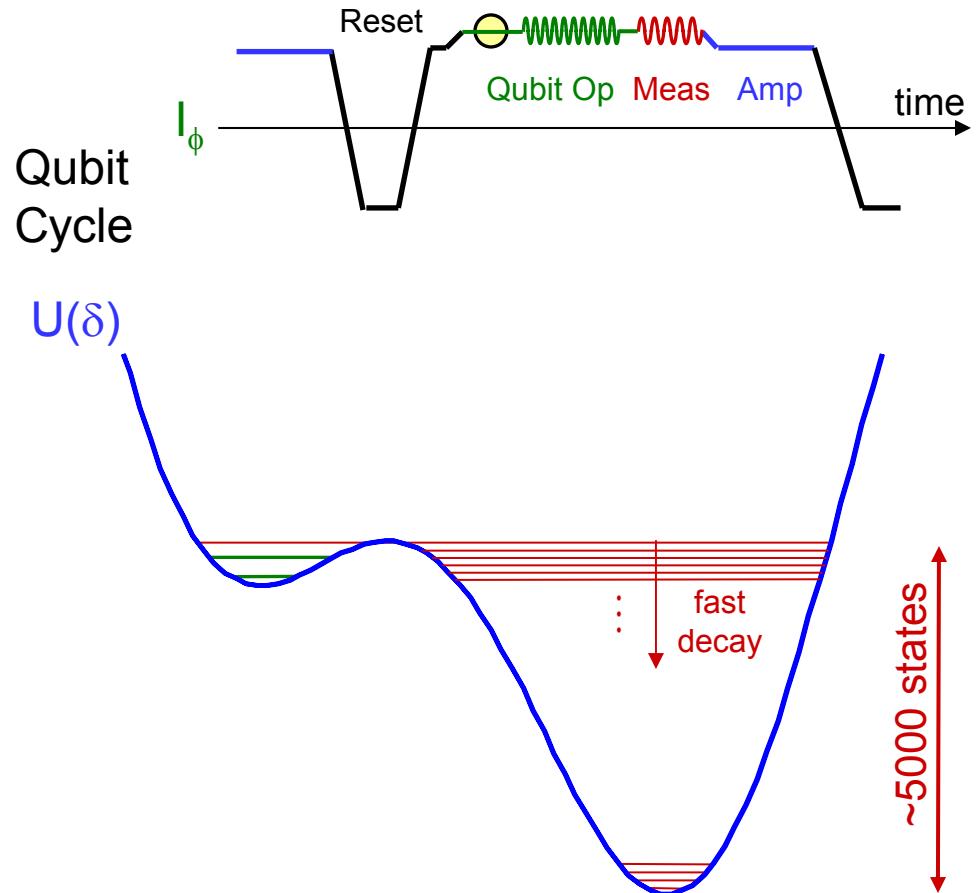
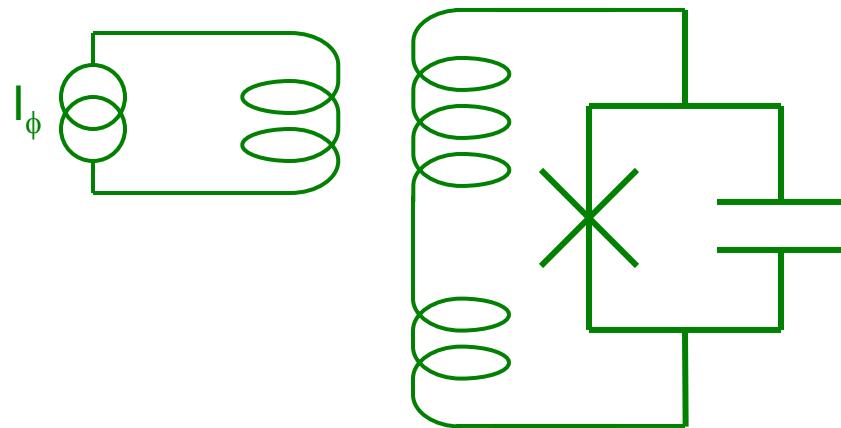
# Qubit operation → Measurement → Readout



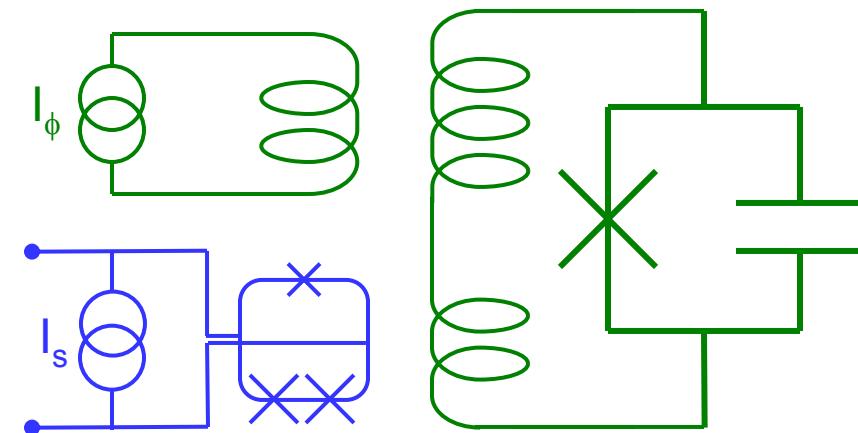
Qubit  
Cycle  
 $U(\delta)$



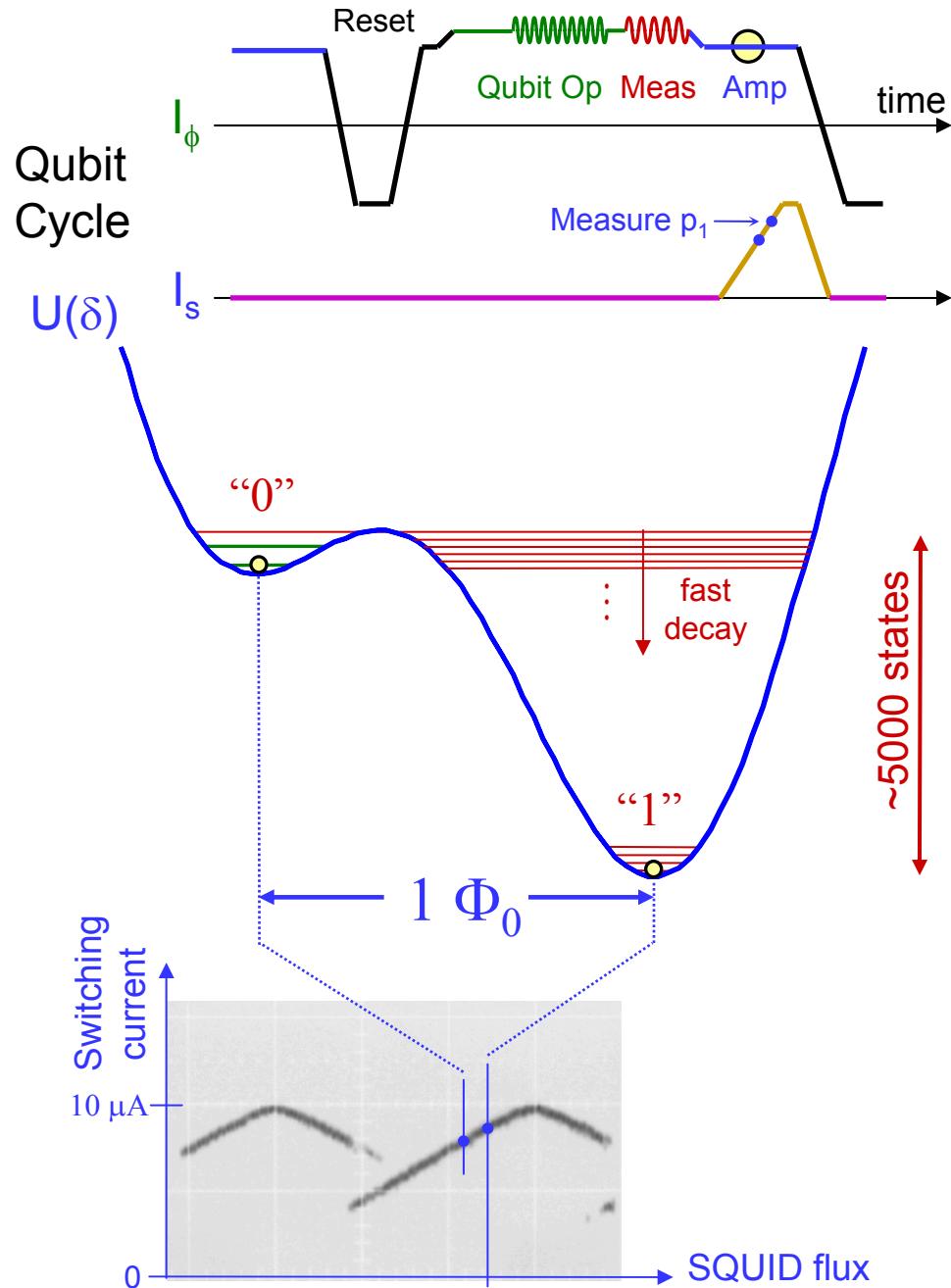
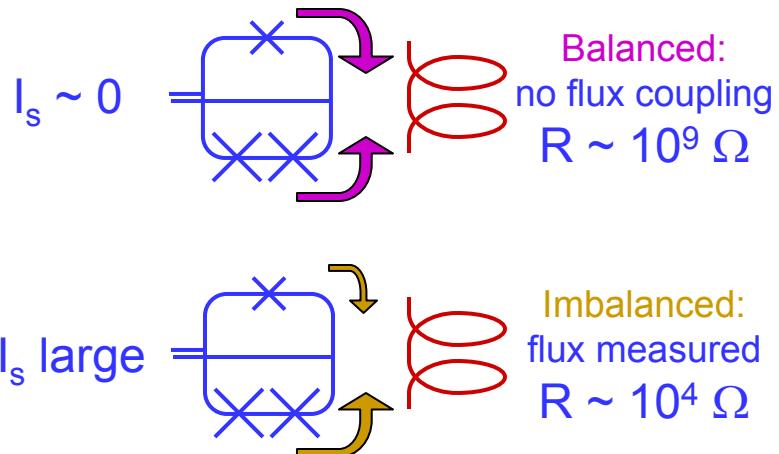
# Qubit operation → Measurement → Readout



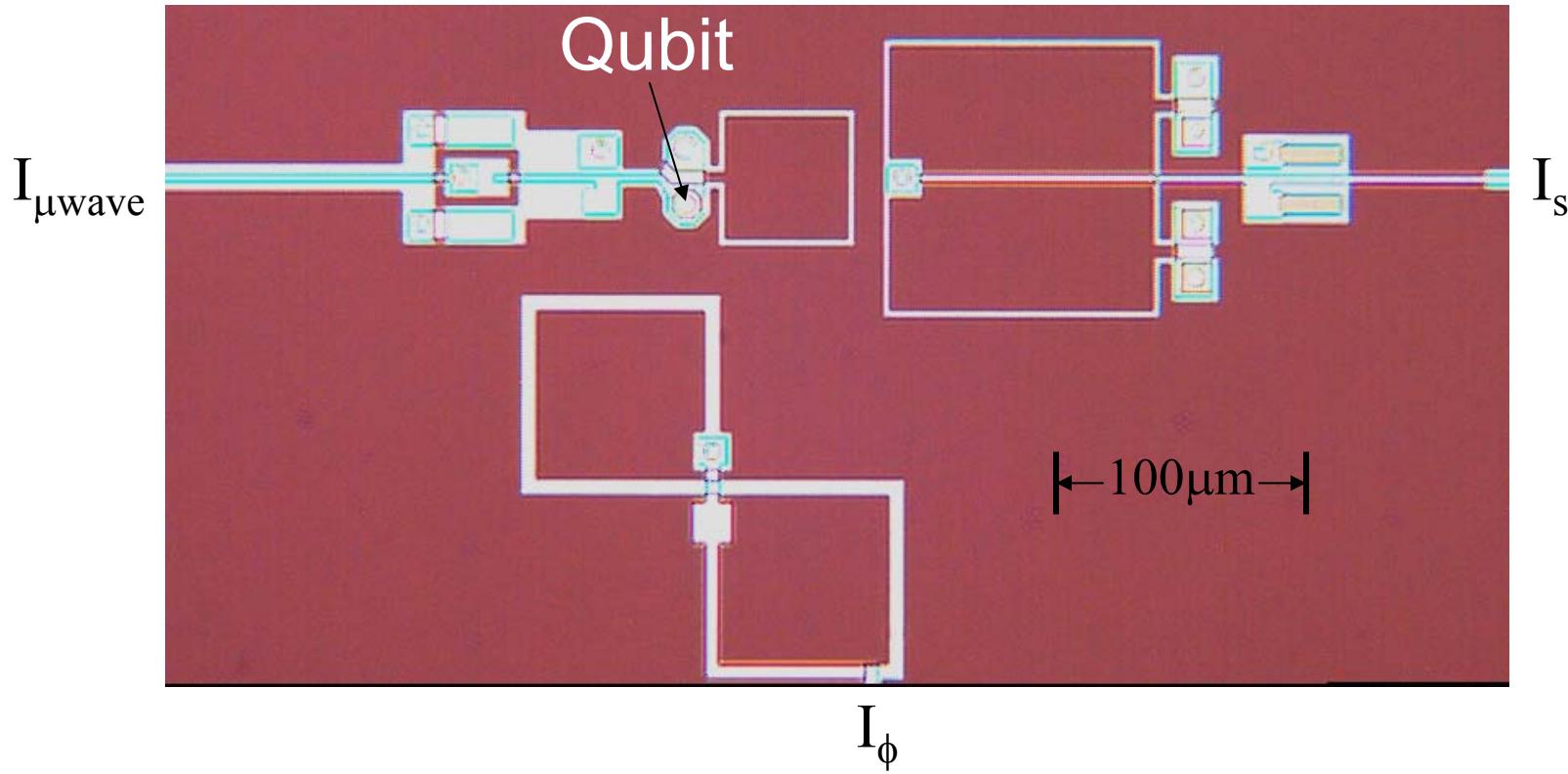
# Qubit operation → Measurement → Readout



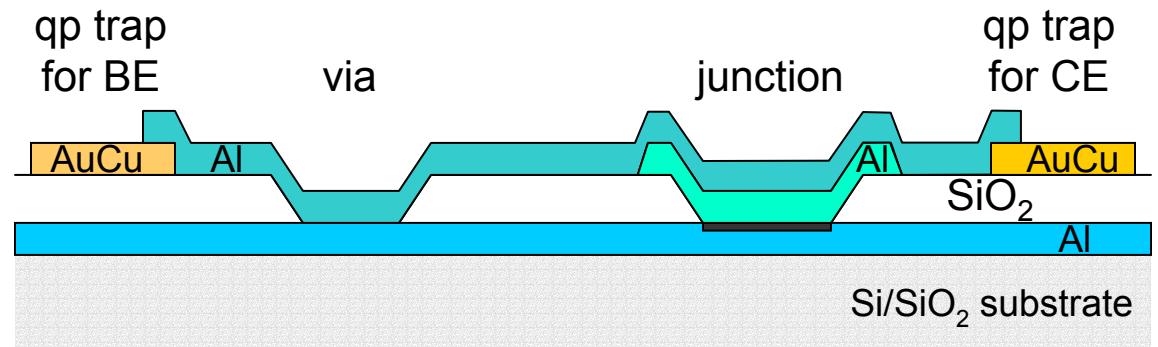
Amplifier (and its dissipation!) turned on & off with  $I_s$   
- Adjustable  $T_1$  -

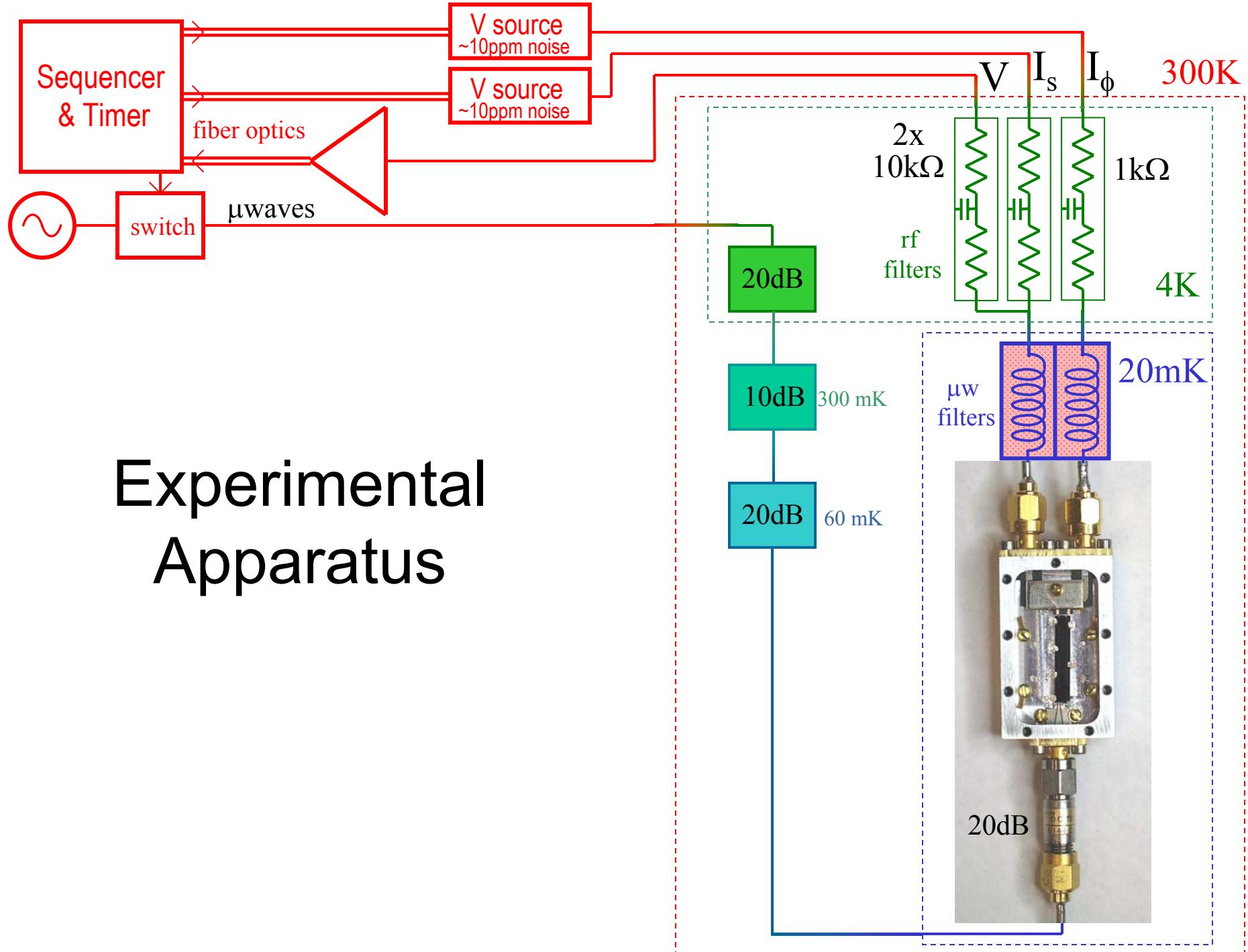


# IC Fabrication

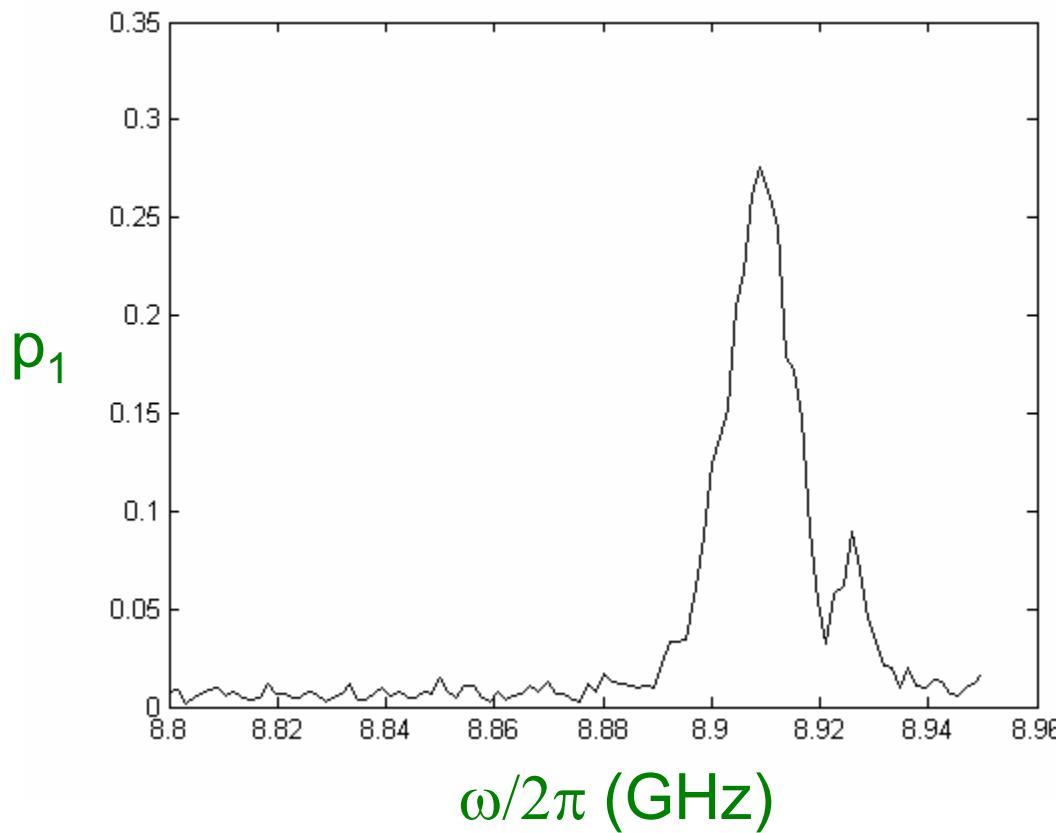
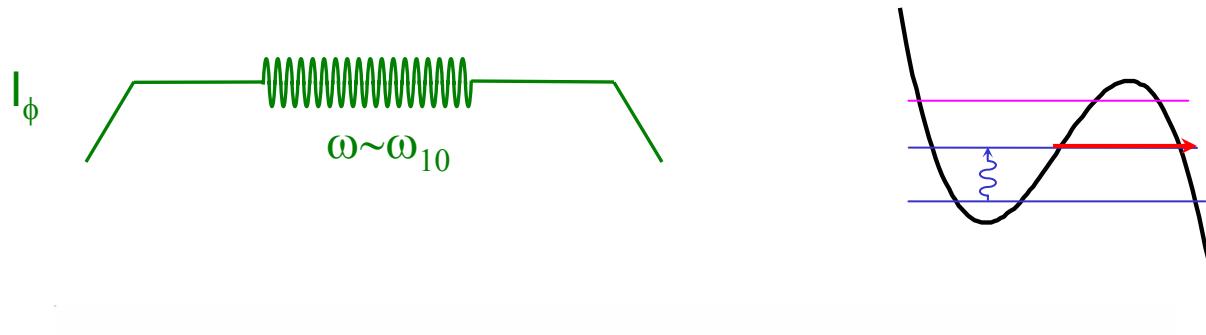


Al junction process  
& optical lithography

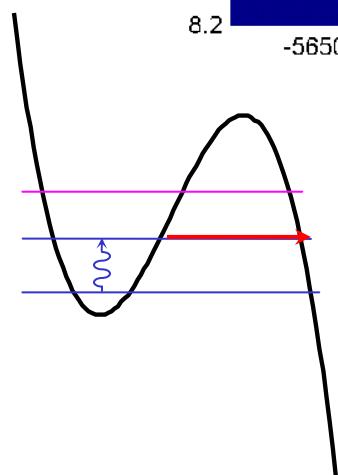
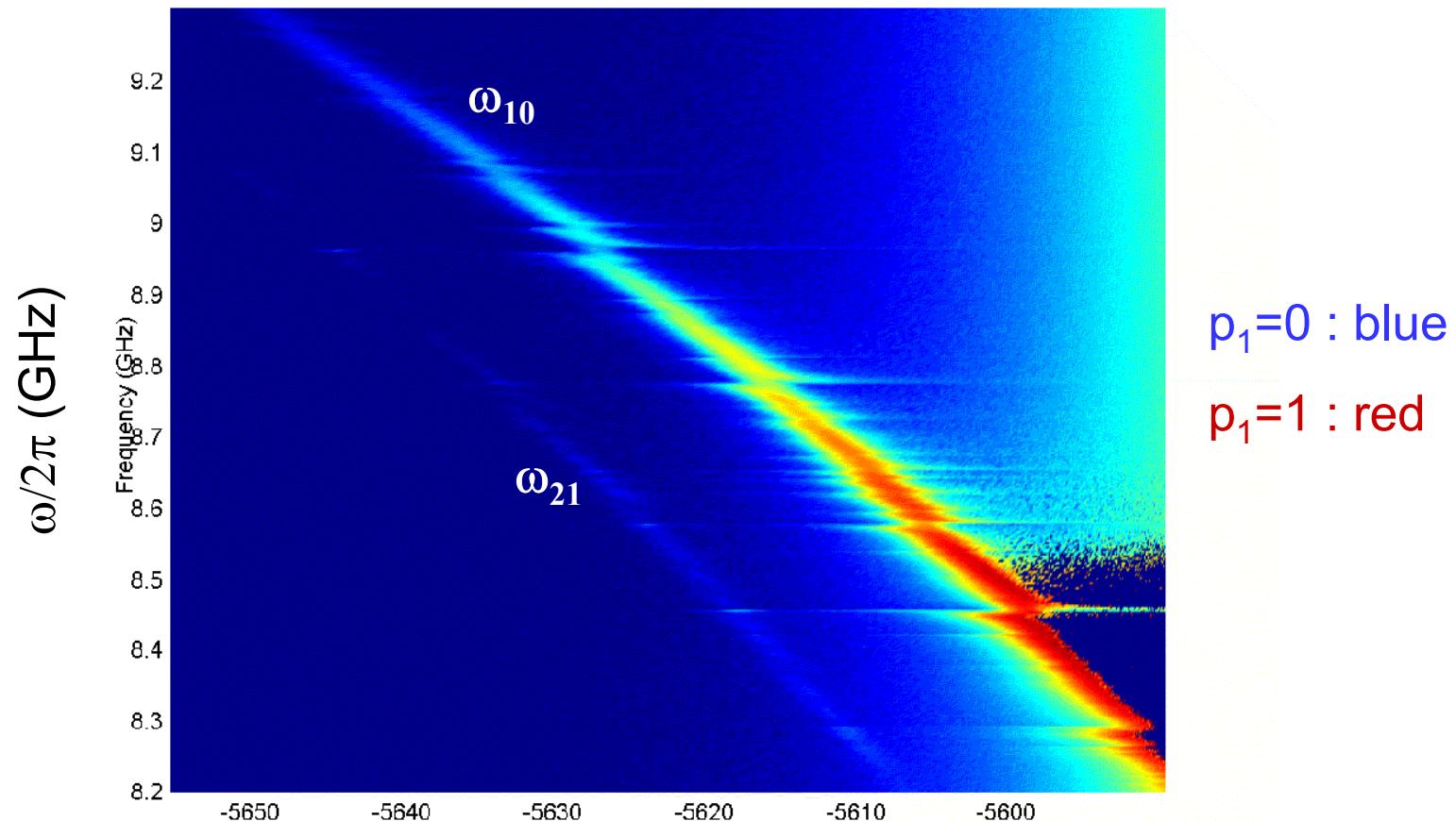




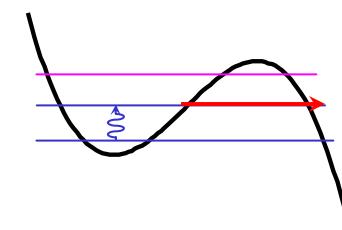
# Spectroscopy



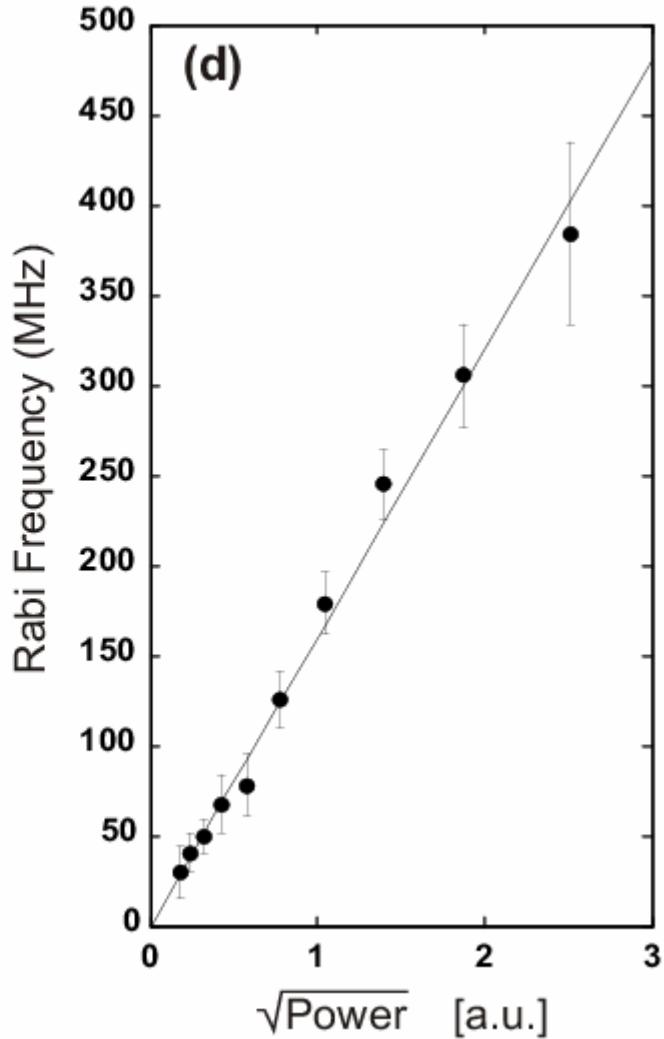
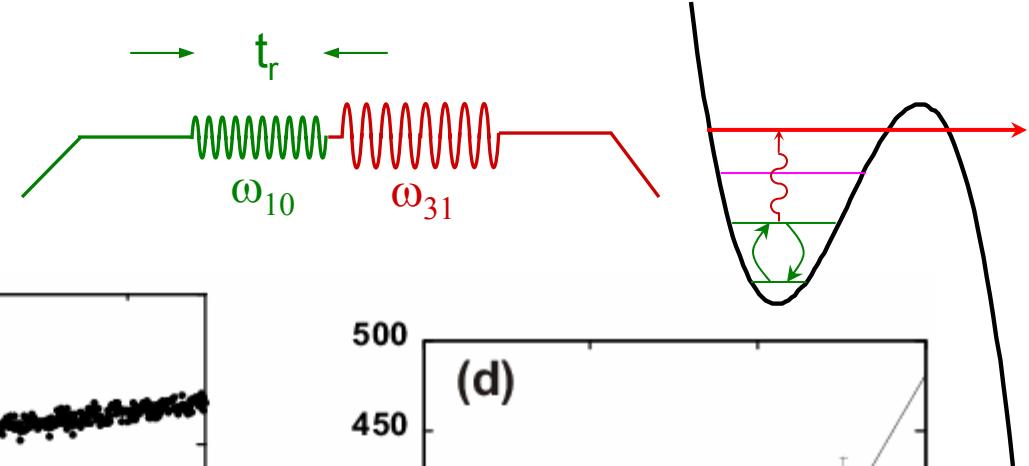
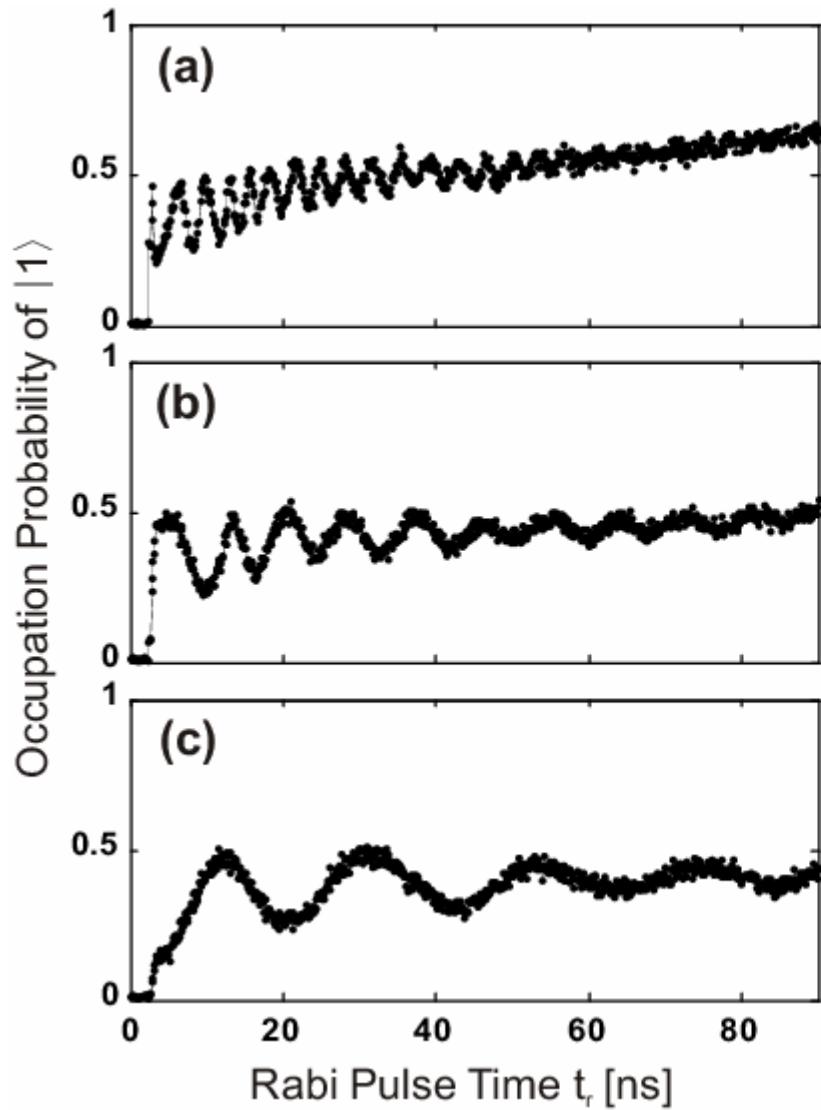
# Energy Levels vs. Bias Current

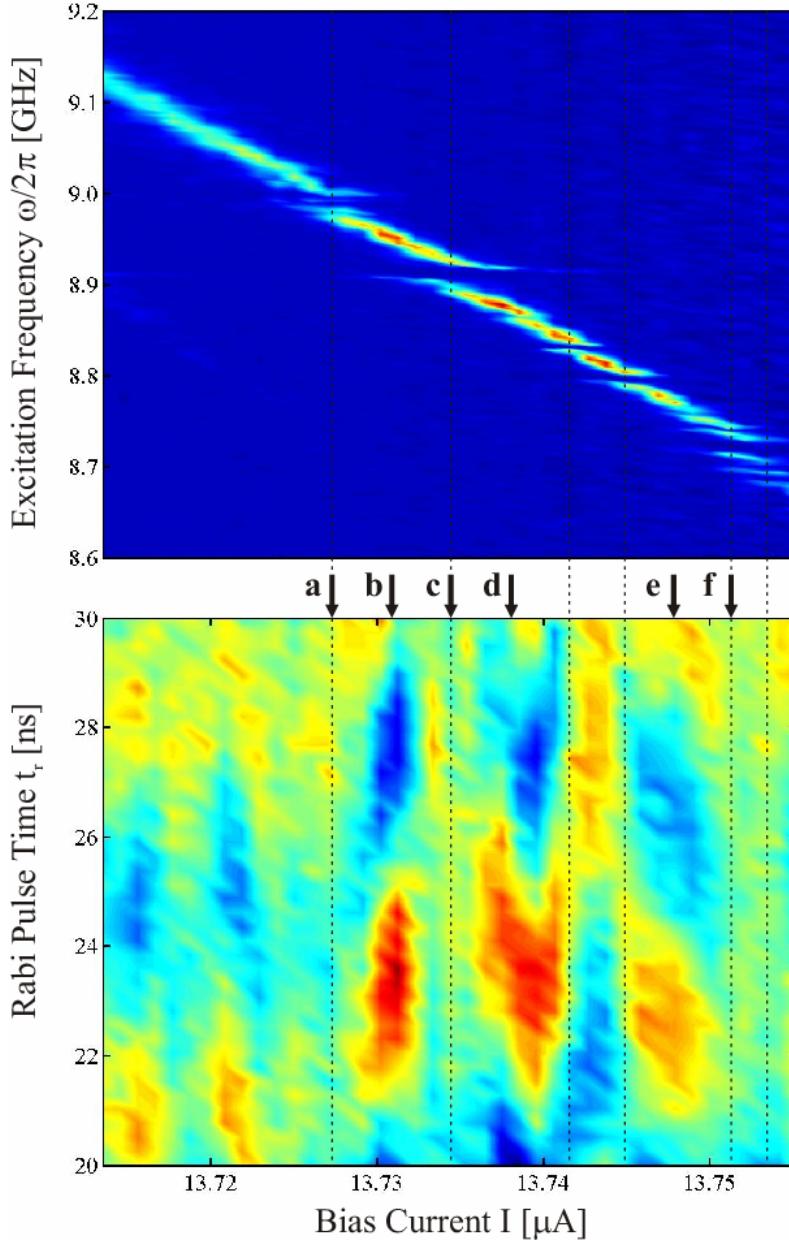


Increasing  $I$  (arb. Units)



# Rabi Oscillations

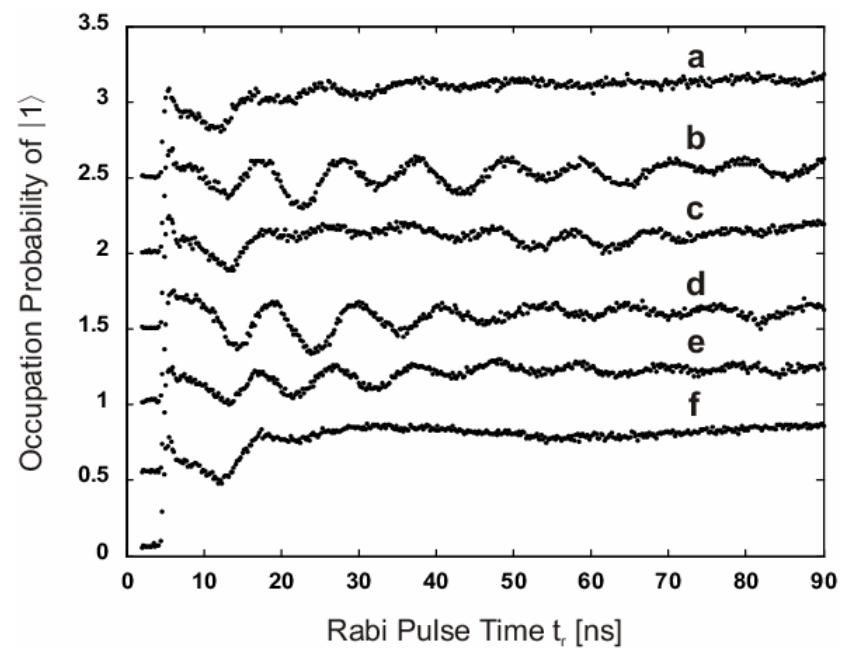




# Resonances & Rabi Oscillations

$p_1=0$  : blue

$p_1=1$  : red

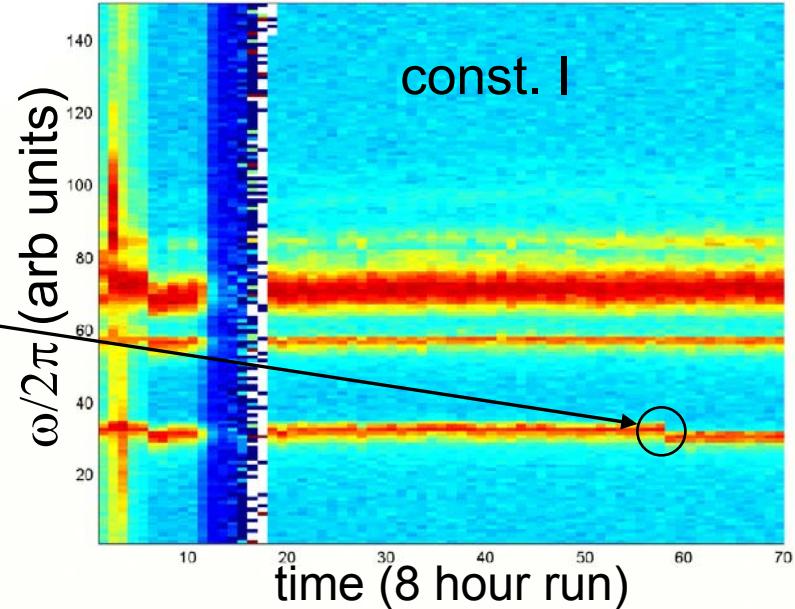


Rabi oscillations disappear  
at spurious resonances

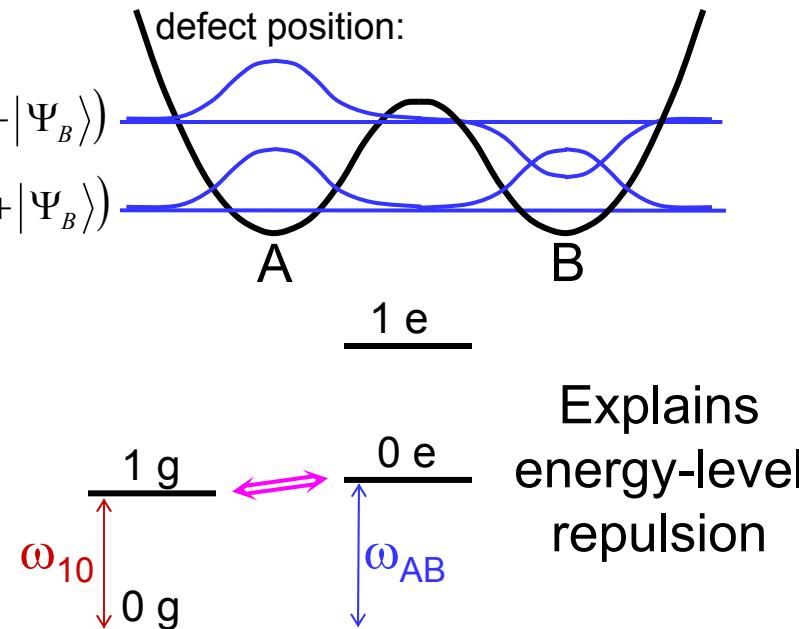
Reduced coherence  
amplitude

# What causes extra resonances?

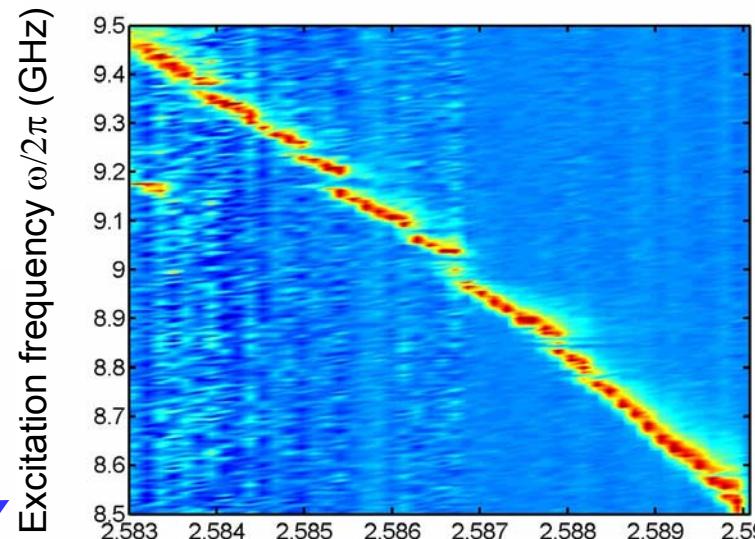
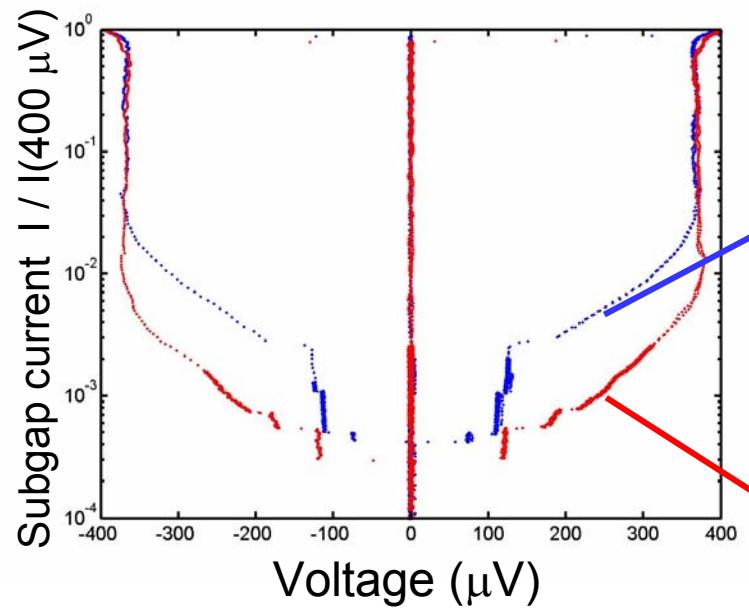
- Resonance ‘fingerprint’ changes at 300K (not 4K)
- Frequency shifts rule-out macroscopic EM modes
- Model as modulation of  $I_0$  from resonant defect motion



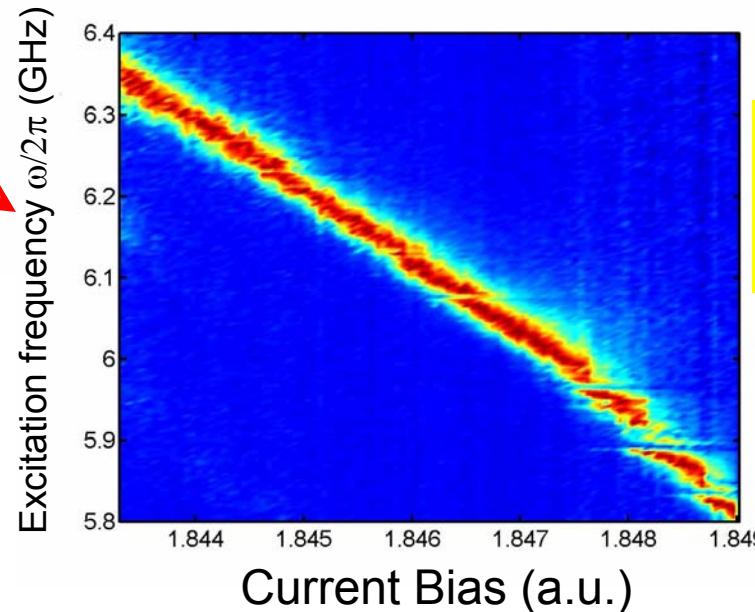
$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\text{int}} &= \left( -\frac{\Phi_0 I_{0A}}{2\pi} \cos \delta \right) \otimes |\Psi_A\rangle\langle\Psi_A| \\
 &\quad + \left( -\frac{\Phi_0 I_{0B}}{2\pi} \cos \delta \right) \otimes |\Psi_B\rangle\langle\Psi_B| \\
 &= \frac{\Delta I_0}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\omega_{10}C}} (|0\rangle\langle 1| \otimes |e\rangle\langle g| + |1\rangle\langle 0| \otimes |g\rangle\langle e|)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Resonance Size Correlated with Fabrication !



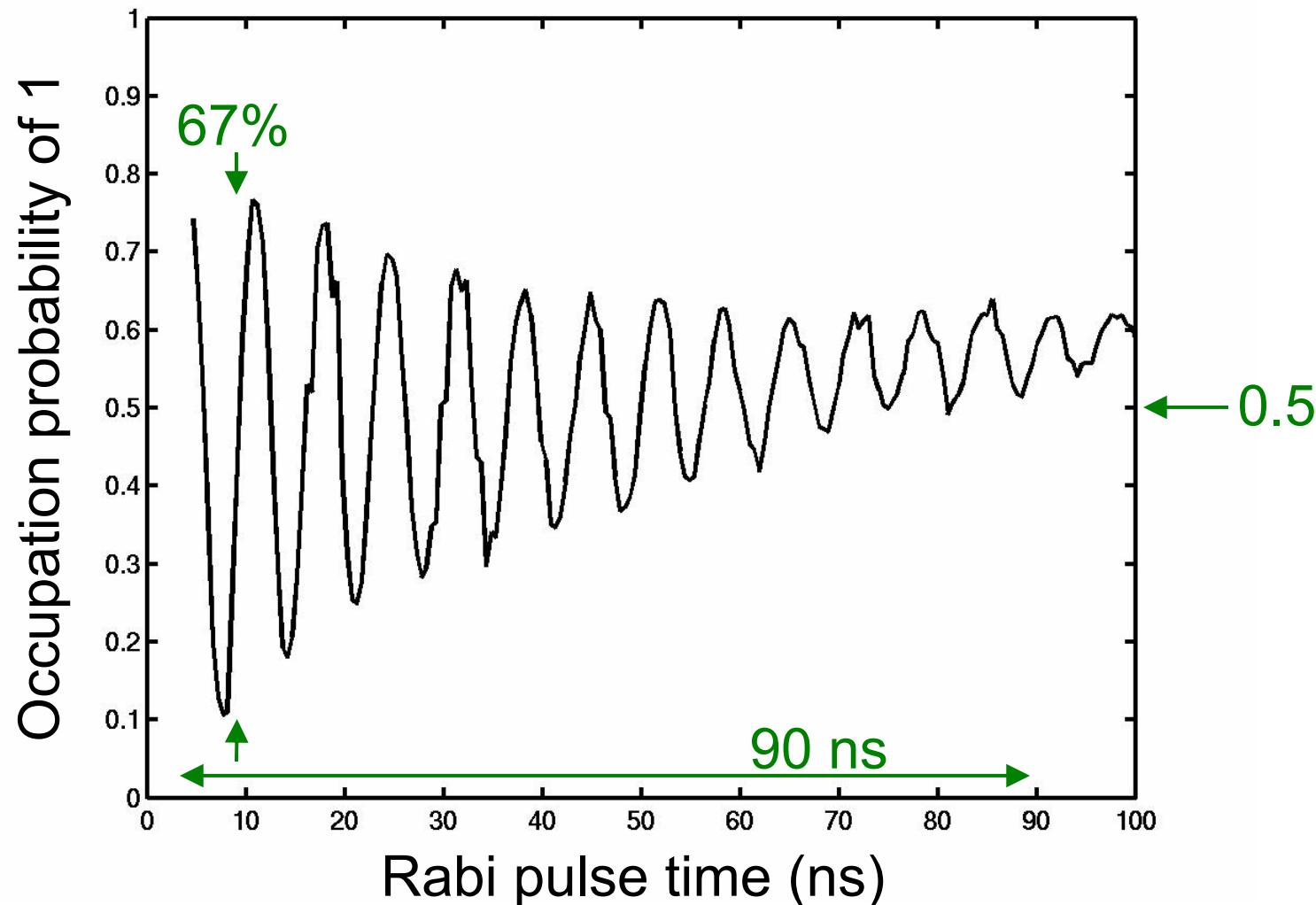
Al  
Ion Mill clean  
Oxidize  
Al



“Clean” Fab. :  
Lower subgap I  
Smaller Res.

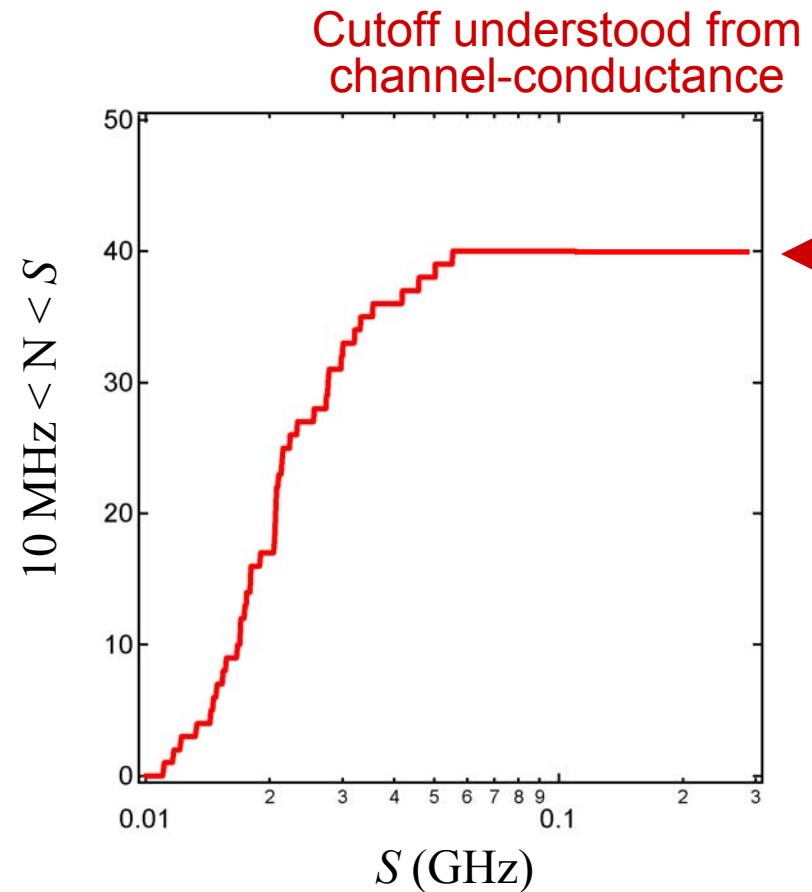
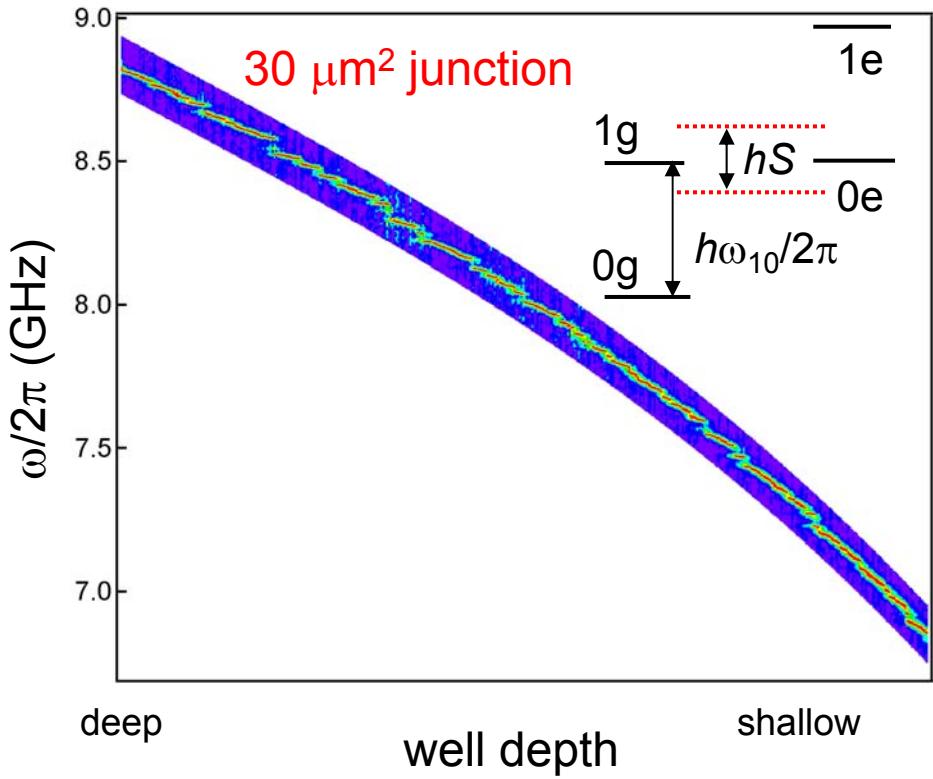
Al  
Oxidize  
Al

# Rabi Oscillations for Trilayer Junction

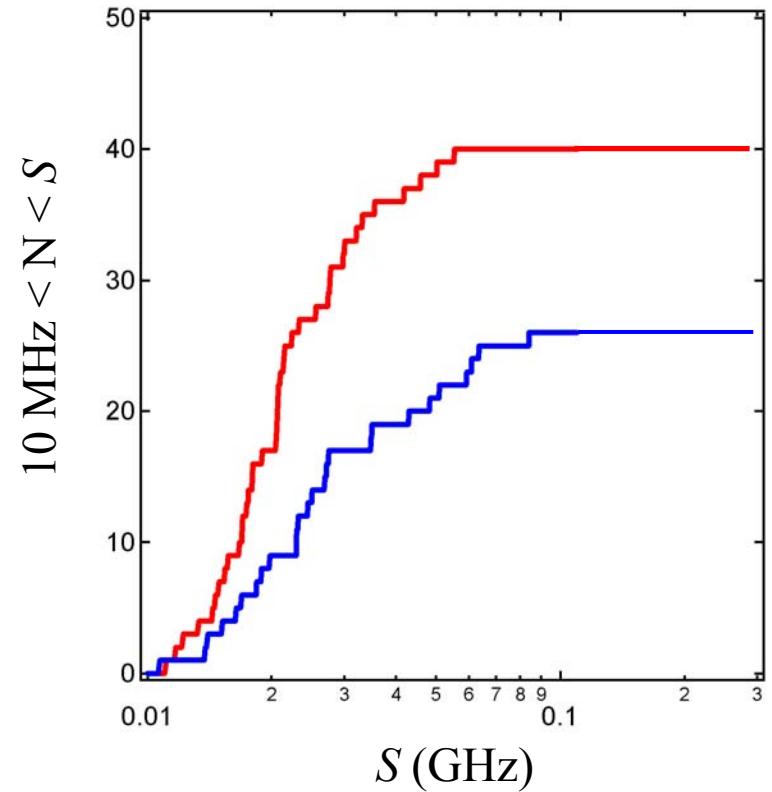
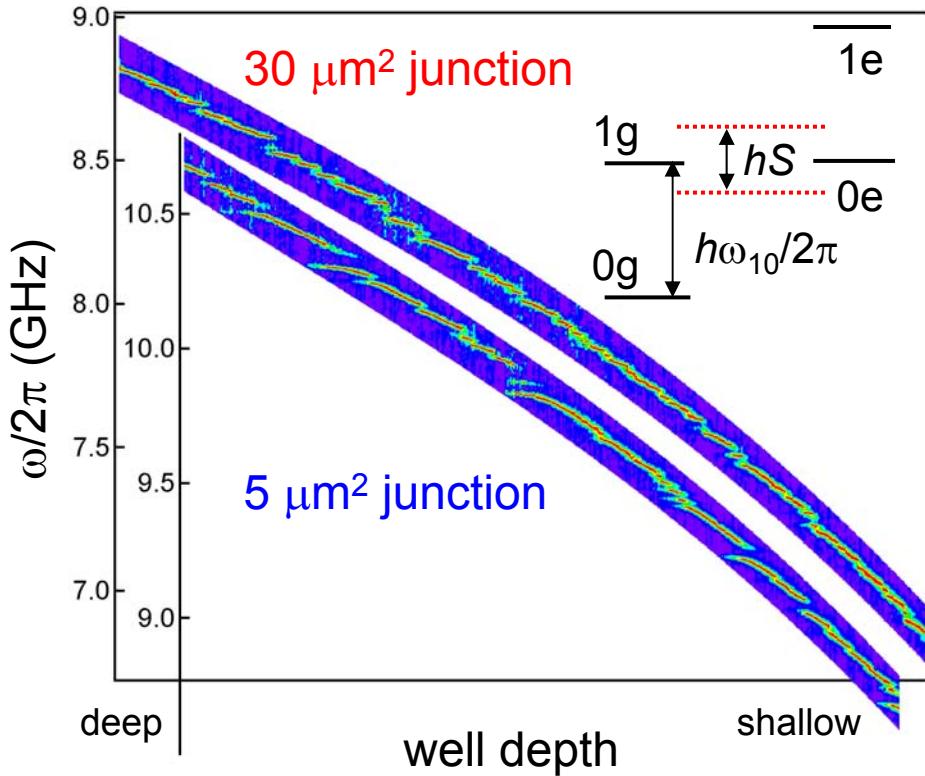


15 qubits: Typically 40-50% amplitude

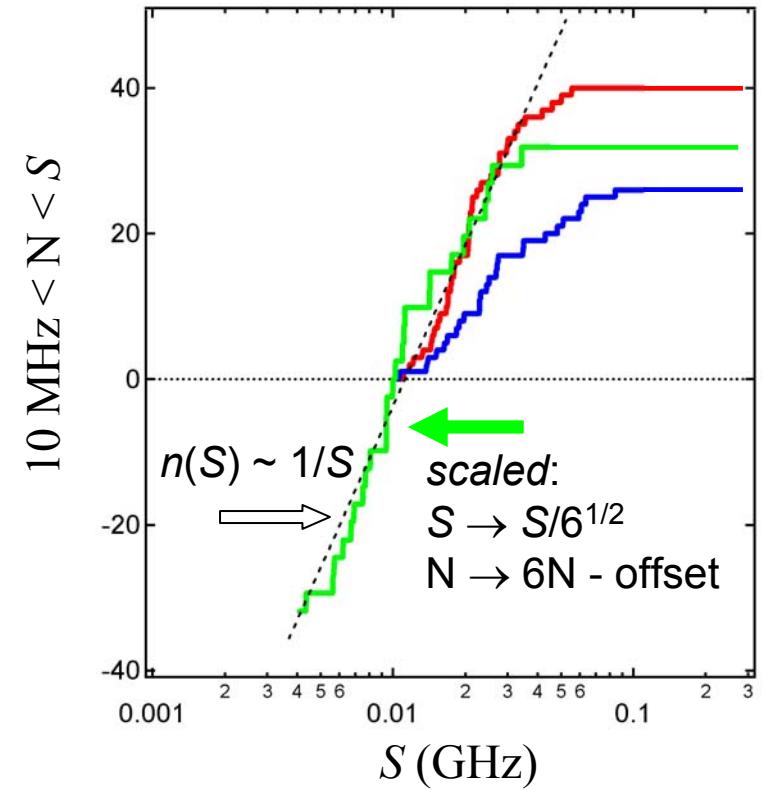
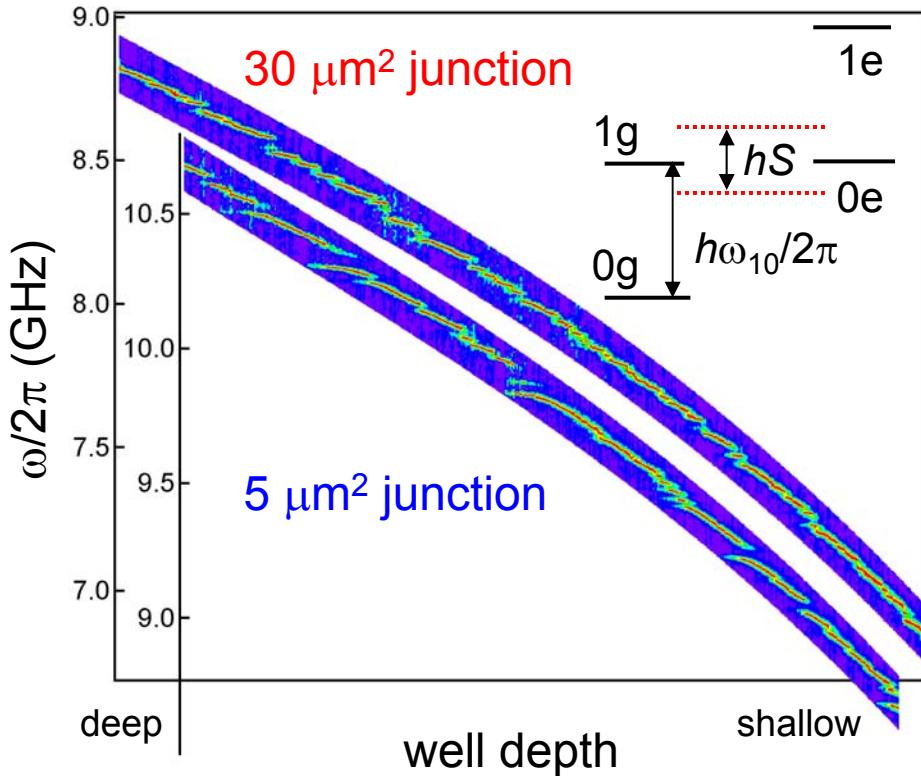
# Resonator Magnitudes



# Resonator Magnitudes

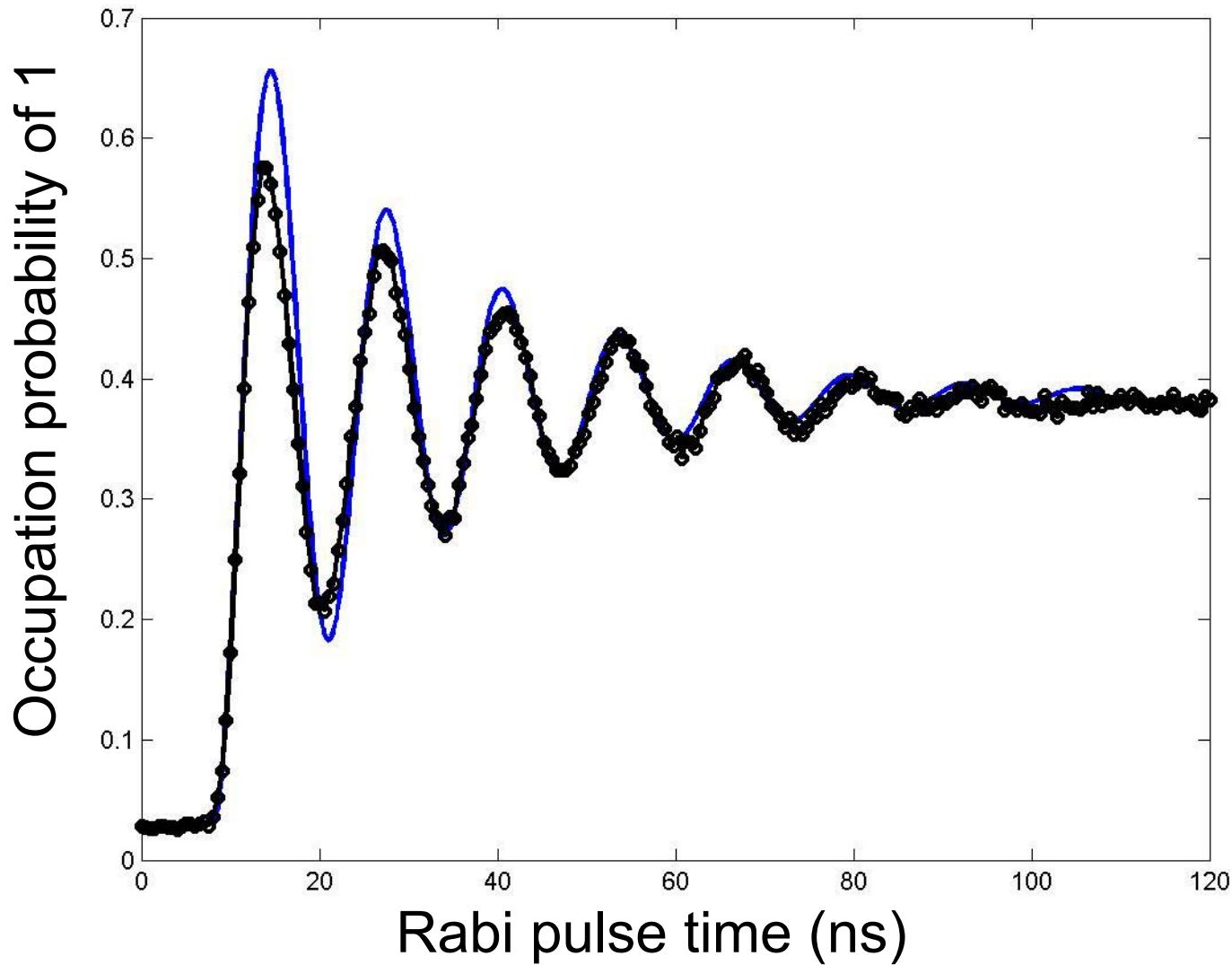


# Resonator Magnitudes

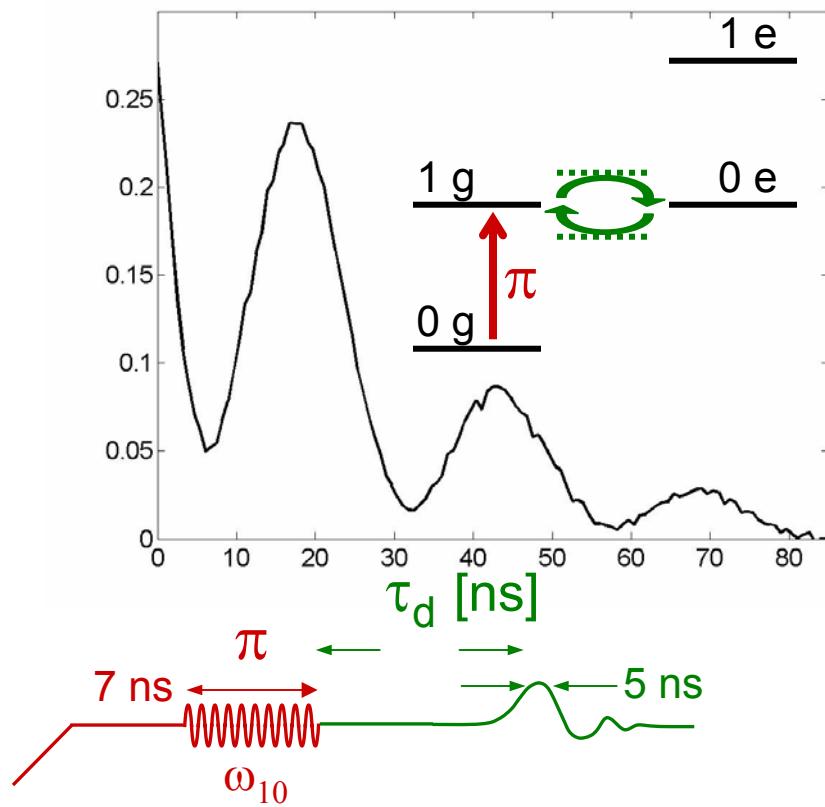
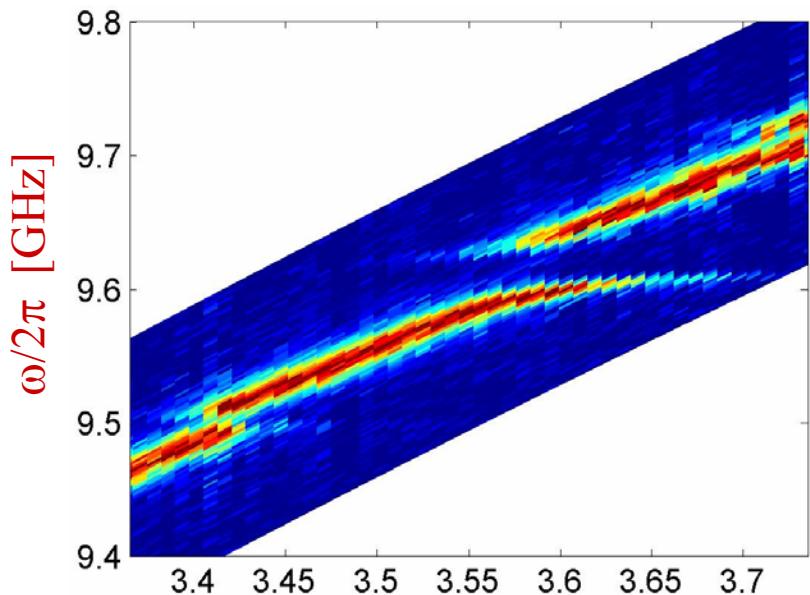


- Fewer resonators with smaller junction – must bias away from large resonances!  
(consistent with phase, flux qubits)
- $T_1$  shorter with small junction – new decoherence source

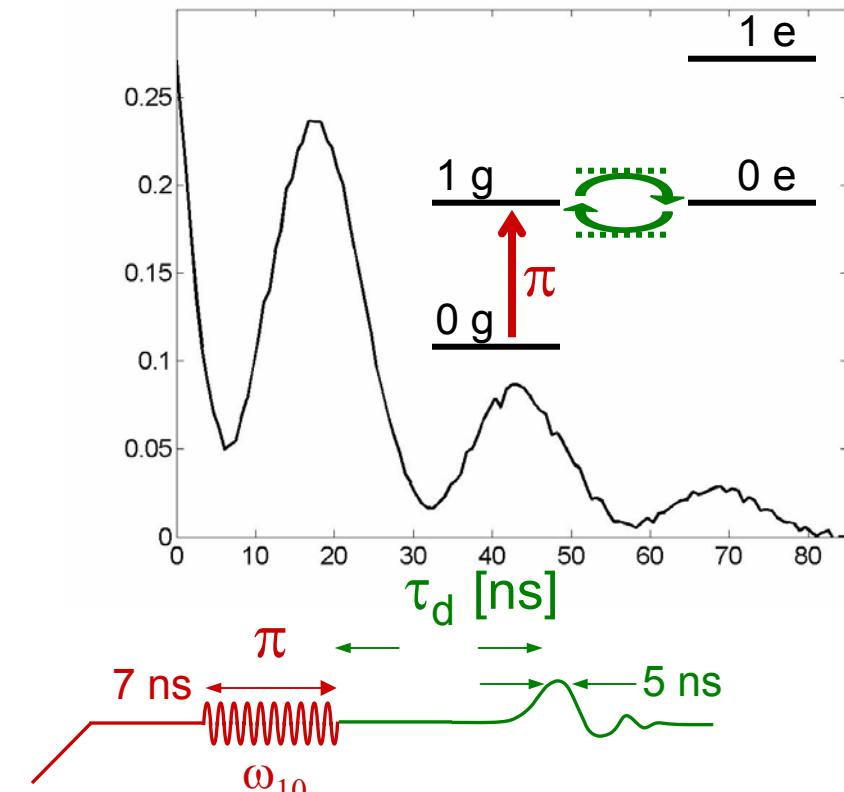
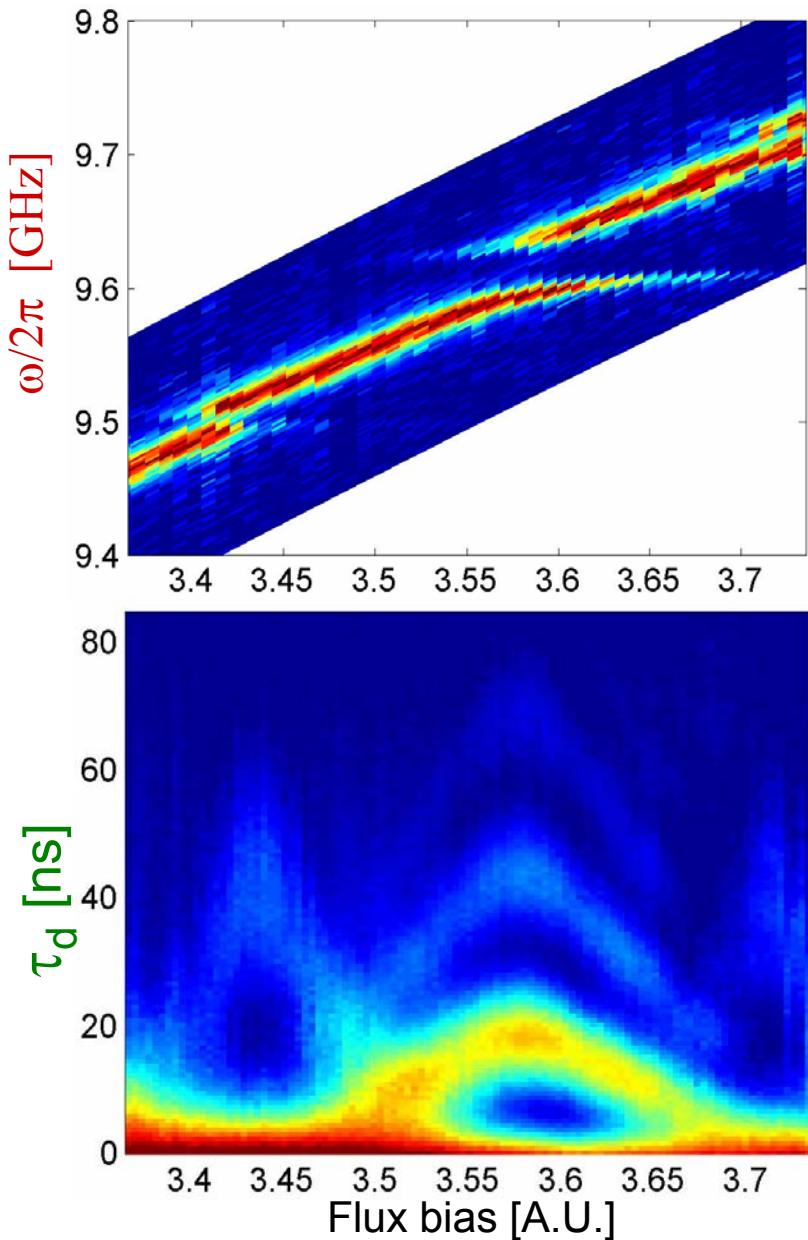
# Data from yesterday (small area)



# Time-Domain Measurements of Resonance

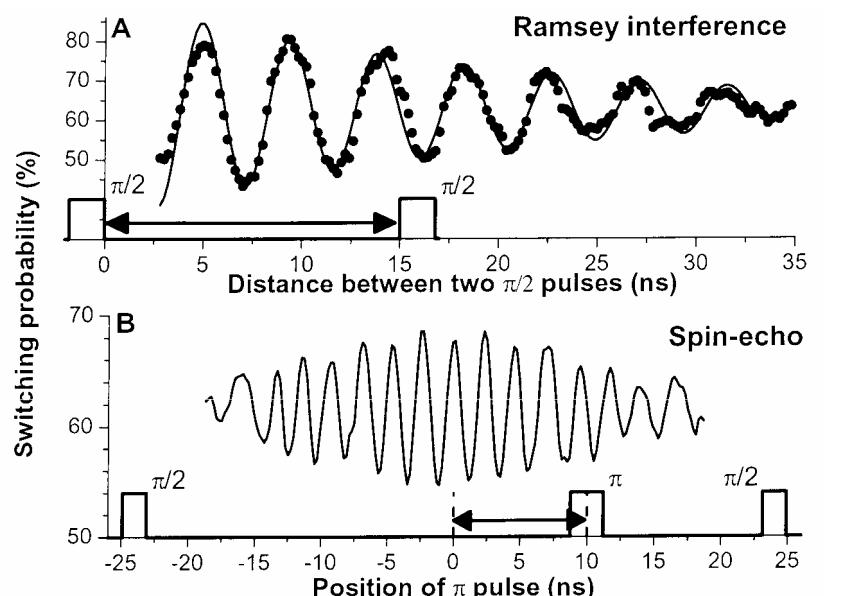
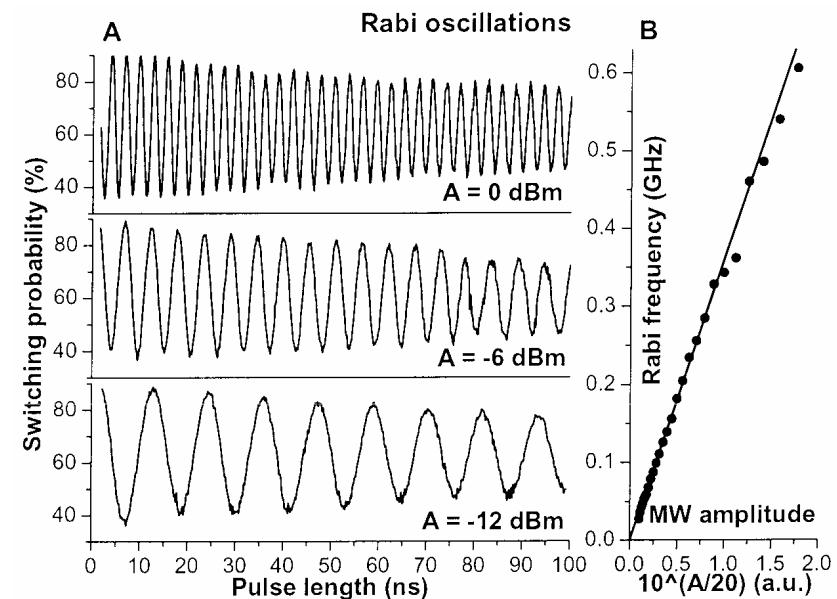
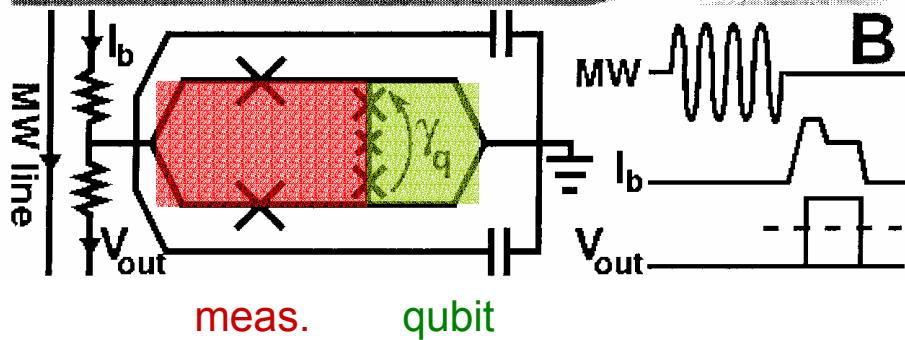
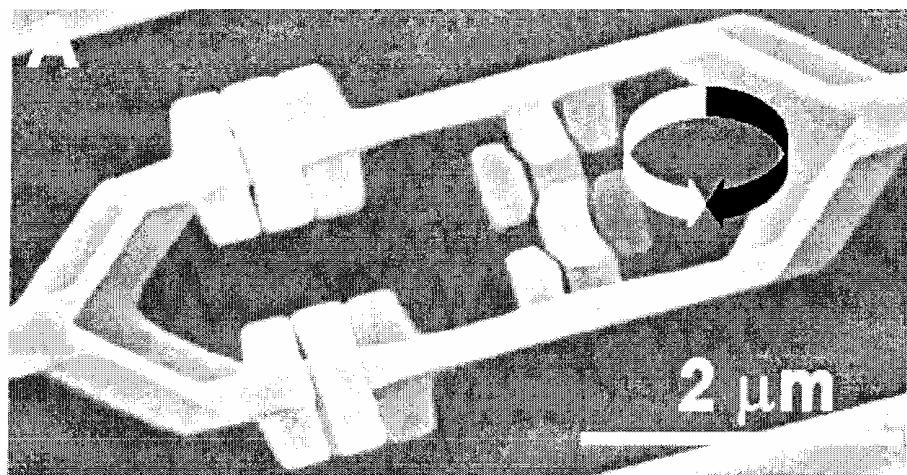


# Time-Domain Measurements of Resonance



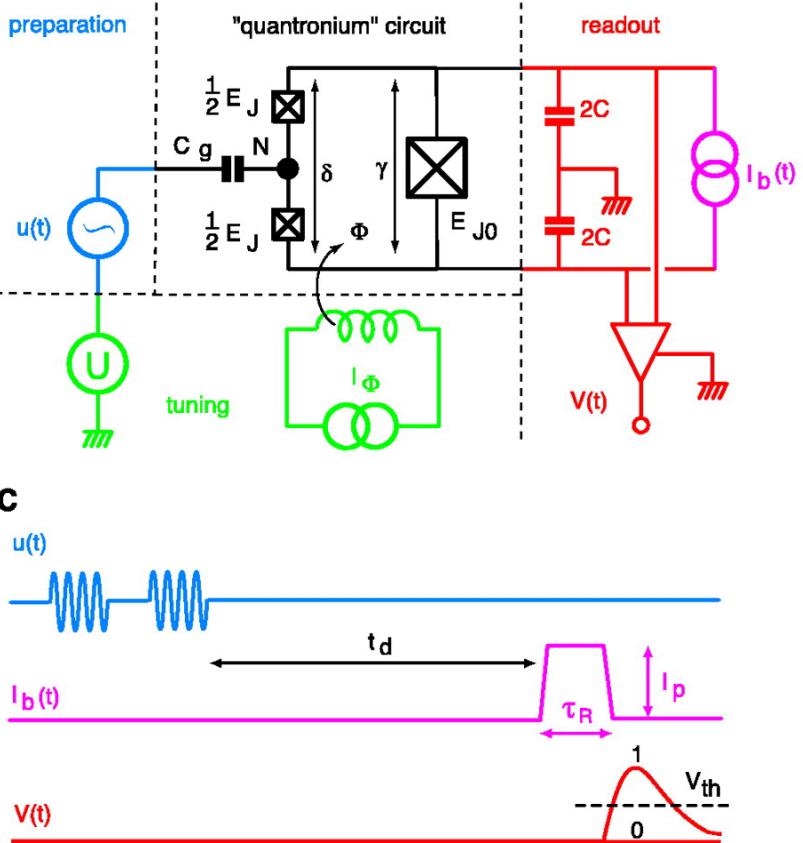
- Resonances are long-lived: cancel with spin-echo techniques?
- “Mock-up” of coupled qubit experiment measure correlation of two states

# Flux Qubit (Delft)

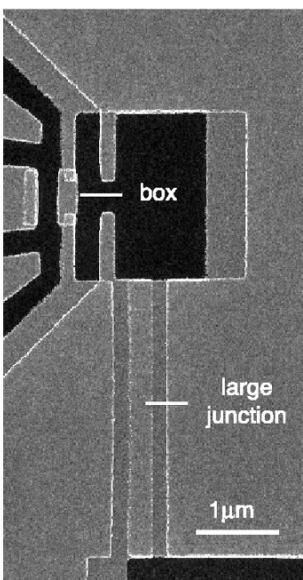


# Charge Qubit (Saclay)

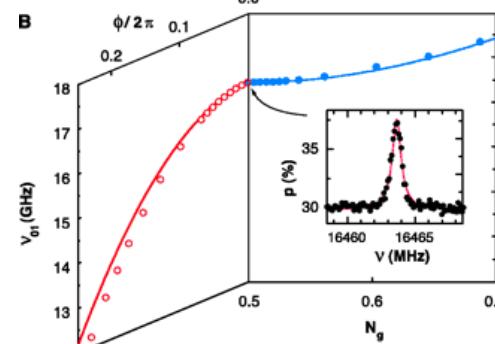
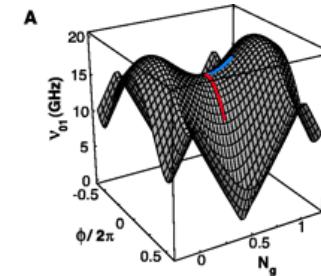
A



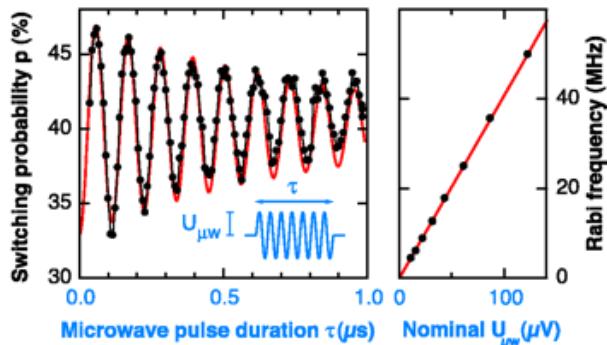
B



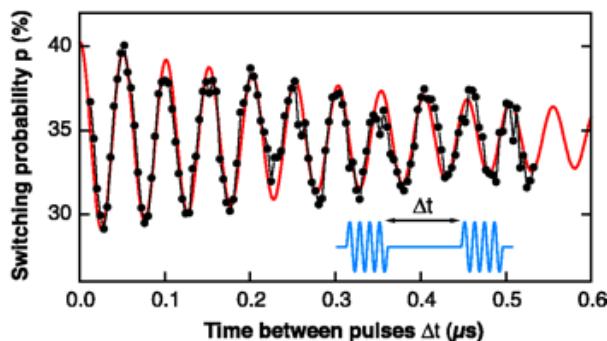
Large 1/f charge noise requires operation at degeneracy point  
( $d\omega/dq = 0$ )



A



B



# Summary & Future Work

- Understand how to design qubits
- Circuits work:
  - State preparation
  - Logic operation (Rabi oscillations)
  - State measurement
- “Mock-up” of coupled qubit experiment
- Need to eliminate spurious resonances:
  - Microscopic model
  - Understand size dependence
  - New materials - improve upon amorphous AlOx
- “Brute force” scaling to 20-100 (1000) qubits
  - Room temperature sequencer and pulse generators
  - DR with 100-1000 wires

# Decoherence from Fluctuations (& resonances)

(with M. Devoret)

$$\begin{aligned} E_J &= E_J^{\text{stat}} + \Delta E_J(t) \\ E_C &= E_C^{\text{stat}} + \Delta E_C(t) \\ Q &= Q^{\text{stat}} + \Delta Q(t) \\ L &= L^{\text{stat}} + \Delta L(t) \end{aligned}$$

med.

?

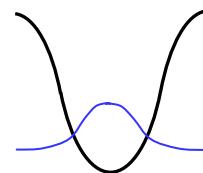
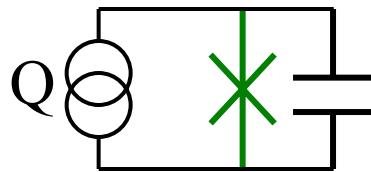
large

?

Parameter  
Fluctuations

Occurs in all  
qubit systems!

## Charge



$$H \approx -\frac{E_J}{2}\sigma_z + \frac{E_C(1-Q)}{2}\sigma_x$$

Large



Low freq.

$$I_0$$

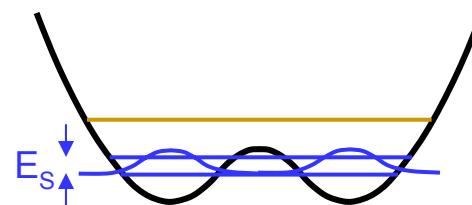
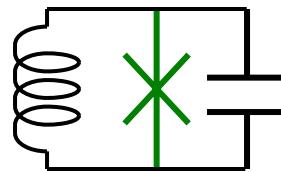
$\approx 0$



High freq.

$$Q$$

## Flux



$$H \approx -\frac{E_s}{2}\sigma_z + \frac{E_\Phi(\frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} - \frac{1}{2})}{2}\sigma_x$$



Low freq.

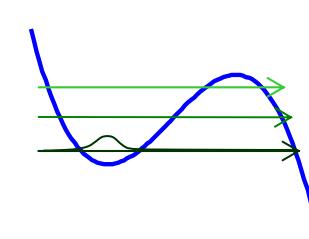
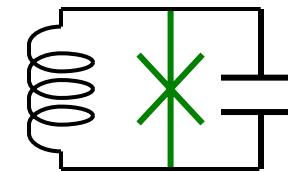
$$I_0, L, C$$



High freq.

$$\Phi, L, (I_0)$$

## Phase



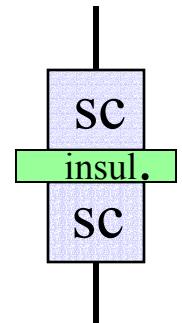
$$H \approx \hbar\omega_{10}\sigma_z + \kappa\Delta I(\sigma_x + \frac{1}{4}\sigma_z)$$



High and low freq.

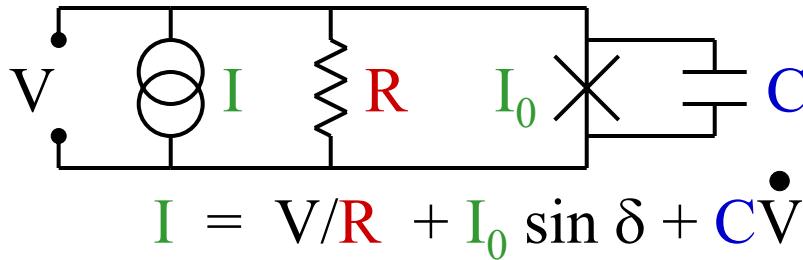
$$\Phi, L, I_0, C$$

# Josephson-Junction Physics



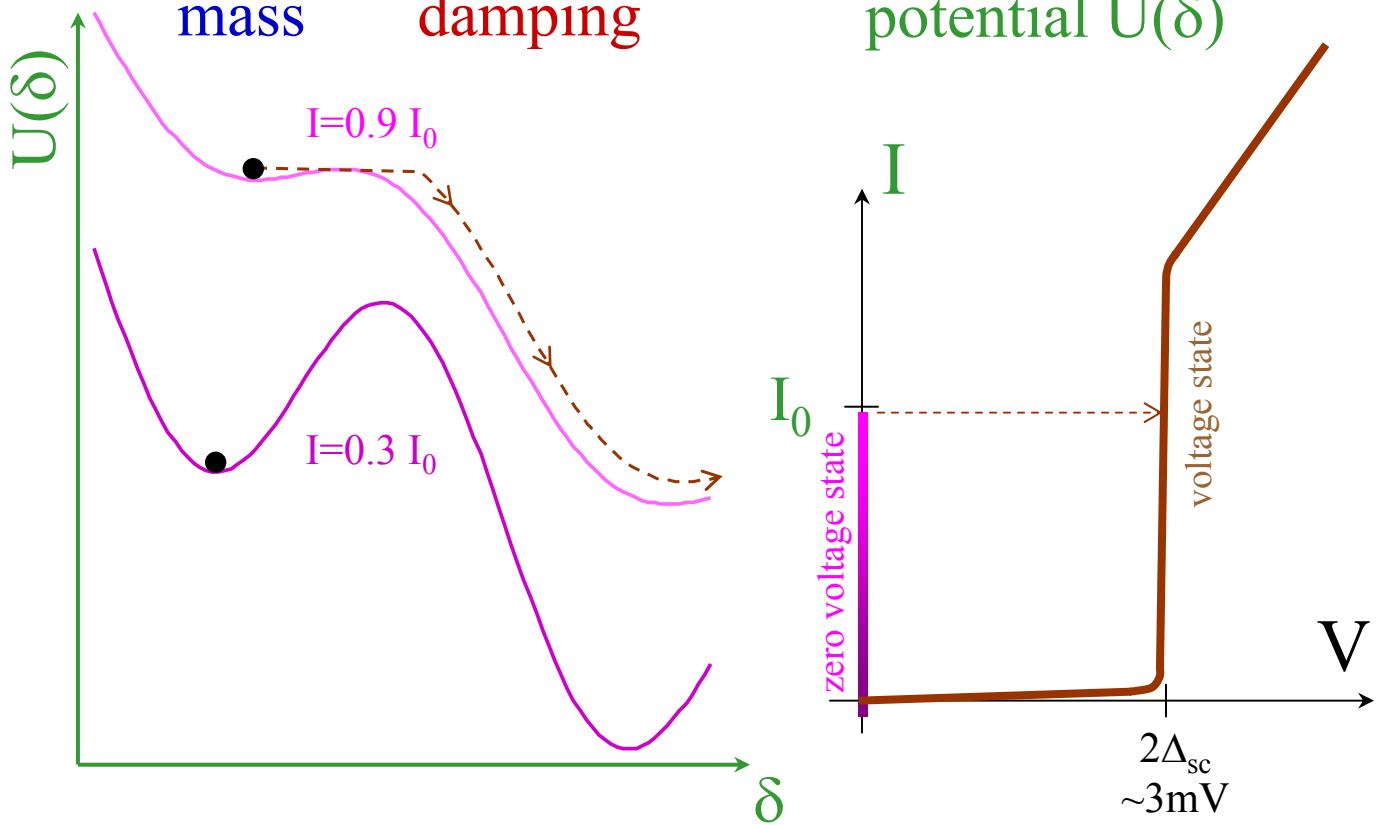
$$I_j = I_0 \sin \delta$$

$$V = (\Phi_0 / 2\pi) \dot{\delta}$$



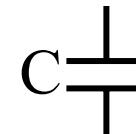
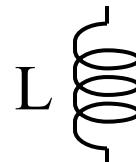
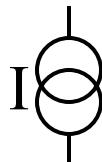
$$\left[ C \left( \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \right)^2 \right] \ddot{\delta} + \left[ \frac{1}{R} \left( \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \right)^2 \right] \dot{\delta} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \delta} \left[ - I_0 \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \cos \delta - I \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \delta \right] = 0$$

mass      damping      potential  $U(\delta)$



# Qubit Taxonomy

Circuit elements:



Hamiltonian:

$$-\frac{I_0\Phi_0}{2\pi} \cos \delta$$

$$-\frac{I\Phi_0}{2\pi} \delta$$

$$\frac{(\Phi_0\delta)^2}{2L}$$

$$\frac{e^2}{2C} q^2$$

Quantum mechanics:

$$[\hat{\Phi}, \hat{Q}] = i\hbar$$

$$[\hat{\delta}, \hat{q}] = 2i$$

## Phase

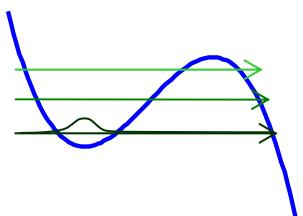
Non-linearity

$$I \rightarrow I_0$$

$$\frac{E_J}{E_C} = \frac{I_0\Phi_0 / 2\pi}{e^2 / 2C}$$

Area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ):

10-100

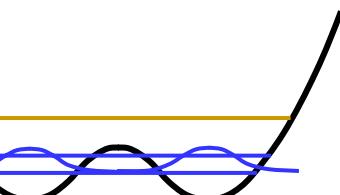


## Flux

$$L \cong L_{J0}$$

10<sup>2</sup>

0.1-1

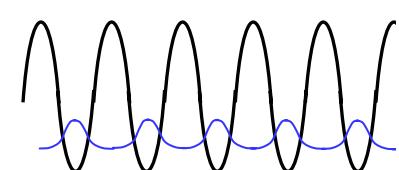


## Charge

Bloch states in  $\delta$

1

0.01



Potential & wavefunction

$$Z_J = 1/\omega_{10} C$$

10  $\Omega$

10<sup>3</sup>  $\Omega$

10<sup>5</sup>  $\Omega$

# Effective Hamiltonian $\sigma \cdot \mathbf{B}$

$$H = \frac{1}{2C} \hat{q}^2 + \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \left[ -I_0 \cos \hat{\delta} - (I_{dc} + \Delta I) \hat{\delta} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2C} \hat{q}^2 + H_{cubic}(I_{dc}, \hat{\delta}) - \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \Delta I \hat{\delta}$$

Solve numerically

Perturbation

$$\approx \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \hbar\omega_{10} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \Delta I \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle & \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle \\ \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle & \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \hbar\omega_{10} \sigma_z + \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\omega_{10}C}} \Delta I \left( \sigma_x + \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega_{10}}{3\Delta U}} \sigma_z \right)$$

Basis transform  
(rotating frame):

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\omega_{10}t} \end{pmatrix} \quad \tilde{H} = V^+ H V - i\hbar V^+ (\partial_t V)$$

$$\tilde{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} (\Delta I_{dc} + I_{uwc} \cos \omega_{10}t + I_{uws} \sin \omega_{10}t) \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle & \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle e^{-i\omega_{10}t} \\ \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle e^{i\omega_{10}t} & \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\approx \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \left( \Delta I_{dc} \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle & 0 \\ 0 & \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle \end{pmatrix} + \frac{I_{uwc}}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle \\ \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{I_{uws}}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \langle 0 | \hat{\delta} | 1 \rangle \\ -i \langle 1 | \hat{\delta} | 0 \rangle & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

$\sigma_z \quad \sigma_x \quad \sigma_y$

Rotating wave approximation (neglect off resonant terms):

# Decoherence & Materials

- All oxide tunnel barriers give similar 1/f noise

(Van Harlingen et al)	$S_{I_0}^{1/2}(1\text{Hz})A^{1/2}/I_0$ ( $\mu\text{m pA}/\text{Hz}^{1/2}/\mu\text{A}$ )
Al-AlOx-Al	(~5)
Nb-AlOx-Nb	7-20
Nb-Ox-PbIn	7-20
Nb-NbOx-PbInAu	8
PbIn-Ox-Pb	15
NbN-AlN-NbN (epi)	1000

- Need Materials Research – Qubits have vastly different requirements

Past Research: High  $T_c$ ,  $Q < 1$ , low leakage junctions

Qubits:  $T_c > 1\text{K}$ , leakage tolerated  
low fluctuations, low dielectric loss

- Our research directions:

Barrier uniformity, barrier materials (AlN), epitaxial growth

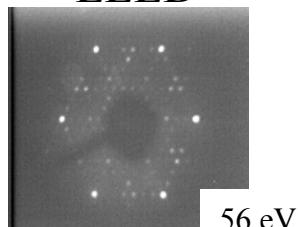
Large-area qubits are ideal test circuits

# MBE Growth of Al on Si(111)

- Si(111)-(7×7)  
Flash anneal 1250°C  
**Ordered**

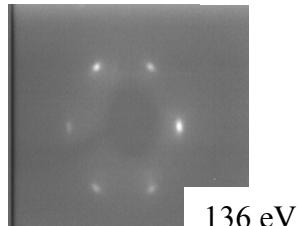
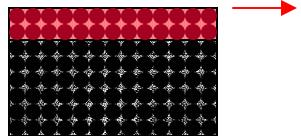


LEED



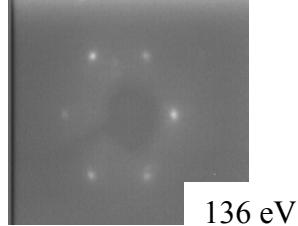
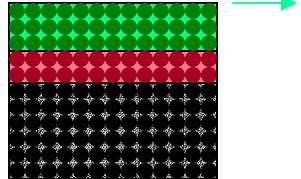
56 eV

- Al seed layer 50 Å  
Evap. 100 K  
Anneal 450 K  
**Ordered**



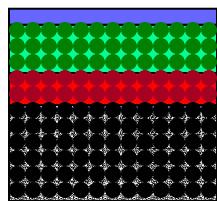
136 eV

- Al homo-epitaxy  
Evap. 300K  
Anneal 450 K  
**Ordered**

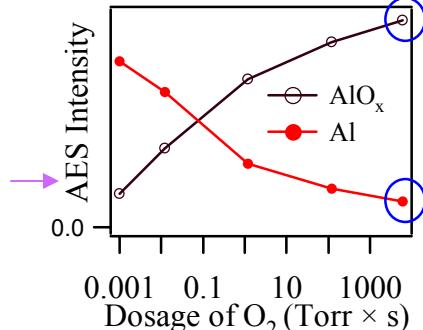


136 eV

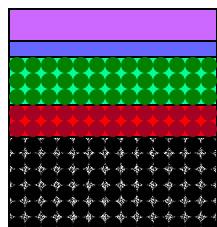
- Oxidation  
10T, 10 min, 300K  
**Amorphous**



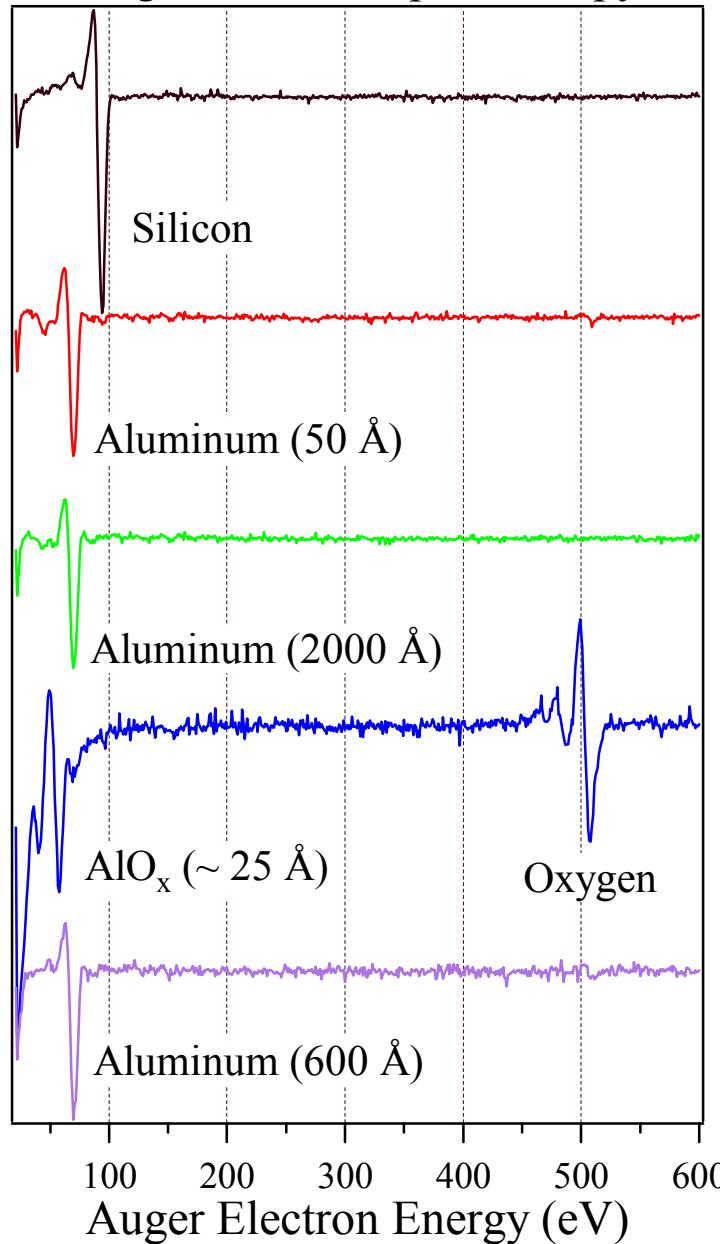
No LEED Pattern



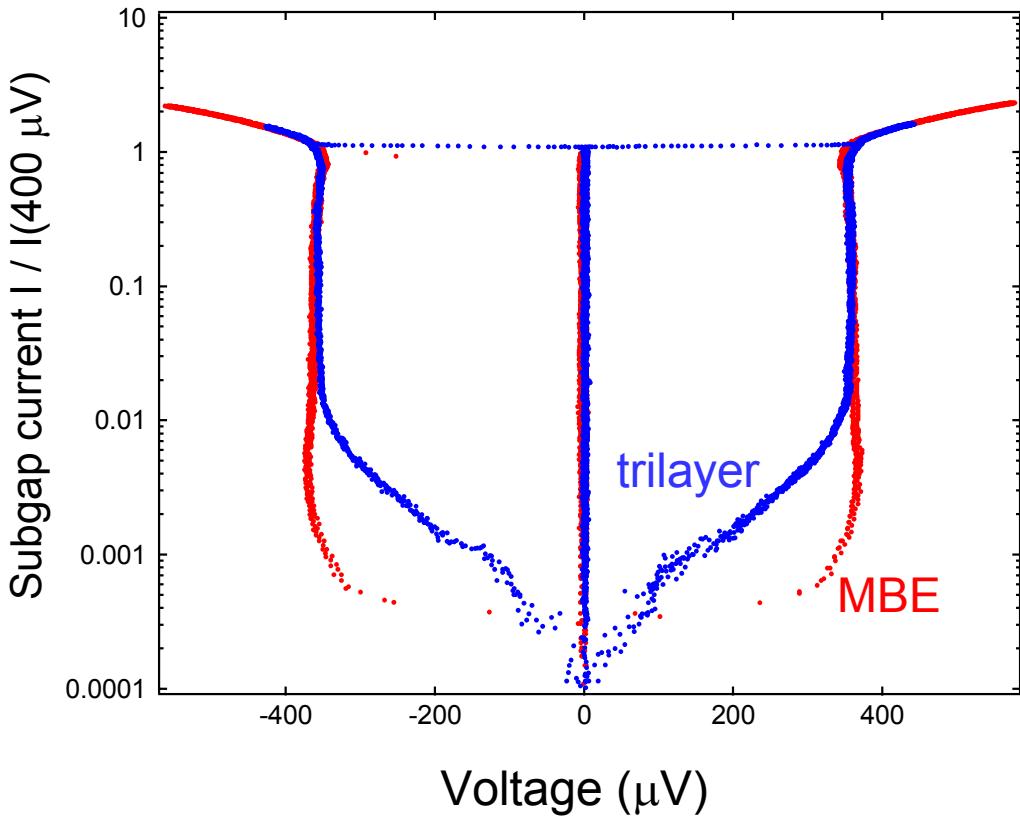
- Al counter-electrode  
**Amorphous**



Auger Electron Spectroscopy



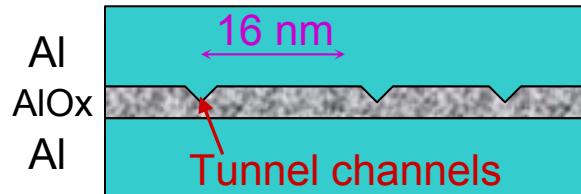
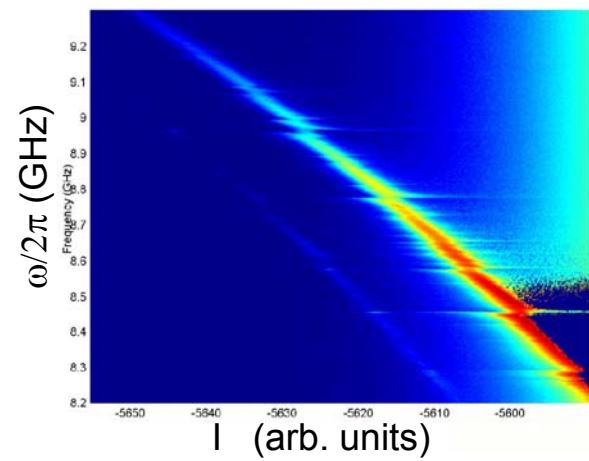
# MBE Junctions – Better Quality



Why is junction yield low (30%)?

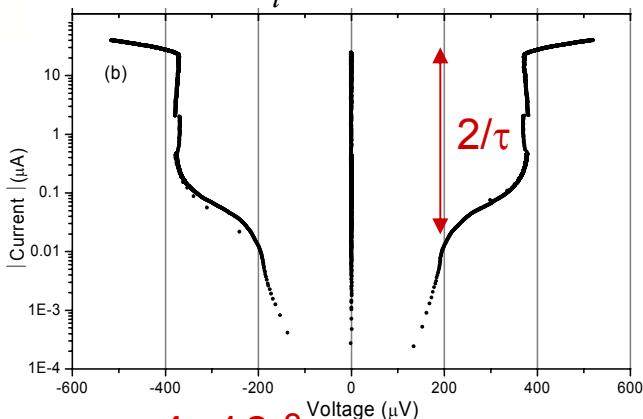
Sputtered films ( $10^{-10} \text{ T}$  chamber) are more reproducible  
No change in coherence (low yield, still inconclusive)

# Decoherence : IV's : 1/f Noise



$$G_N = \frac{2e^2}{h} \sum_i \tau_i = \frac{2e^2}{h} N_{ch} \tau$$

$$G_{S2} \approx \frac{2e^2}{h} \sum_i \tau_i^2 \quad (\Delta < eV < 2\Delta)$$



- $\tau \sim 4 \times 10^{-3}$
- 1 channel /  $(16\text{nm})^2$
- $\Delta I_0/I_0 \sim 8 \text{ ppm}$

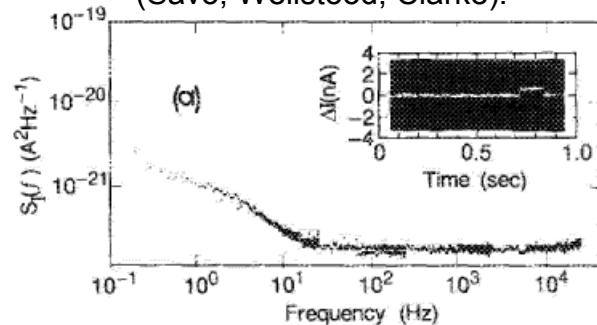


- $\Delta I_0/I_0 \sim 65 \text{ ppm}$
- 5 res. / dec.-fr. -  $\mu\text{m}^2$

Assuming resonances & traps turn on/off channels:

- See individual traps in sub-micron junctions

(Savo, Wellstood, Clarke):



0.1  $\mu\text{m}^2$  junction (Van Harlingen)

- $\Delta I_0 \sim 10^{-4} I_0$   
( $1/N_{ch} \sim 3 \times 10^{-3}$ )
- 1 trap / decade freq.

scaling to 32  $\mu\text{m}^2$

- $\Delta I_0/I_0 \sim 0.3 \text{ ppm}$
- 10 traps / dec.-fr. -  $\mu\text{m}^2$

Resonances and 1/f noise are same phenomenon !